



BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

REPORT
OF THE
HEALTH OF OLDBURY
For the Year 1938.

OLDBURY:
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Borough



of Oldbury

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

For the Year 1938.

C. W. SHARPLEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Oxon.)

Medical Officer of Health.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL.

OLDBURY:

The Midland Printing Co., Ltd., Simpson Street.

BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1937-38.

ALDERMAN S. T. MELSOM, C.C., *Chairman*.

ALDERMAN MRS. L. A. SMITH, *Vice-Chairman*.

THE MAYOR	COUNCILLOR J. W. HOLLAND.
(Alderman R. M. HADLEY, J.P., C.C.)	„ W. S. HUMPHREY,
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„ G. H. GRIFFITHS.	„ C. H. WHITE.
„ J. W. HOLLAND.	MRS. V. E. ROSE
	(co-opted member).

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Medical Officer of Health:

C. W. SHARPLEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Oxon.)

Assistant Medical Officer:

ANNA M. ROBERTSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Dental Surgeon:

W. CROFTS ARKLE, L.D.S., R.F.P.S. (Glas.)

Ophthalmic Specialist (*part time*):

CHAS. RUDD, M.B., F.R.F.P.S., D.O.M.S., R.C.P.S.

Consultants:

SIR HARROLD BECKWITH WHITEHOUSE, M.B., B.S.
(Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.).

MR. ALFRED DANBY, F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

MR. J. S. M. CONNELL, F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

Sanitary Inspectors:

Chief—EDGAR HARROLD, M.S.I.A., M.I.P.C. (a.b.)

Senior Additional—ALBERT ROWLEY, M.S.I.A. (a.b.)

Additional—F. J. ANDREWS, M.S.I.A. (a.b.)

W. J. MASON, M.S.I.A. (a)

Superintendent Health Visitor and Supervisor of Midwives:

MISS M. J. PIERCE (c.d.e.f.)

Health Visitors and School Nurses:

MISS H. STANSFIELD (c.d.e.) MISS M. L. GIBSON (c.d.e)

„ N. G. KAY (c.d.e.) (commenced 4-7-38)
(resigned 23-4-38)

„ E. STOKES (c.d.e.) „ M. E. ASPINALL (c.d.e.)
(resigned 19-3-38) (commenced 4-7-38)

„ D. H. MATTHEWS (c.d.e.)

„ A. M. O'CALLAGHAN (c.d.e.) „ M. F. R. ELY (c.d.e.)
(resigned 31-10-38) (commenced 5-12-38)

Municipal Midwives:

NURSE G. N. DAWSON (d.e.)

„ H. L. GAUNT (d.e.)

„ C. E. HADLEY (d.e.)

„ B. WHILE (d.e.)

„ B. R. PEACOCK (d.e.) (commenced 1-2-38)

Clerical Staff:

Chief Clerk—S. ASTLEY.

MISS N. B. RICKETTS.

„ M. FIELD.

„ M. DODD (resigned 13-8-38)

„ I. M. POYNTON (resigned 9-4-38)

„ L. HADLEY (commenced 8-8-38)

„ S. M. WATERHOUSE (commenced 20-4-38)

J. S. KNIGHT.

T. K. BOSTON.

Dental Attendants:

MISS G. NEWTON (resigned 10-1-38)

„ A. E. SMITH (commenced 24-1-38)

NOTES.

- (a) Holds the Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate granted by the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Association Joint Board.
- (b) Holds the Meat and Foods Inspectors' Certificate granted by the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- (c) Holds the new Health Visitors' Certificate approved by the Ministry of Health.
- (d) Holds the Midwives' Certificate granted by the Central Midwives Board
- (e) Trained Nurse.
- (f) Midwife Teachers' Diploma (Lond.) granted by the College of Nursing.

BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

For the Year 1938.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the
Borough of Oldbury.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have again the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health Services of the Borough for the year ending 31st December, 1938.

The Vital Statistics as you will see from the figures, show an improvement in all cases with the one exception; maternal mortality. In England and Wales the maternal mortality rate for 1938 was 3.08, while the rate for Oldbury was 3.31.

In March 1938, I made a special report to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, recommending certain alterations in the Service, but these were not agreed to and certain allegations were made as to the administration of the Department and the General

Purposes Committee took the matter up with the Ministry of Health. The result I have mentioned in my introductory letter to the Annual School Report, and will, therefore, not be referred to here.

The whole of the work of the Health Department has been, and continues to be, handicapped by the requirements of Air Raid Precautions.

For the support of the Chairman and Members of the Committee I am very grateful and especially to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee on whom fell the major difficulties during the year.

To my present Staff, I can only say, thank you one and all for untiring help and loyalty, especially during the inspection by the Ministry of Health, which was, I understand, fully appreciated by them in their verbal report to the Deputation.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

C. W. SHARPLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,
Municipal Buildings,
Oldbury.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	3,300
Population (Registrar General's Estimate Mid-summer, 1938)	45,450
Population, (Census 1931)	35,918
Number of inhabited houses	12,976
Rateable Value (1st April, 1938) ..	£188,826 0 0
Sum represented by a penny rate	£688 0 0
Rate (Current year—1938-39)	17 0
„ (Previous year—1937-38)	17 0
Amount of Poor Law Relief administered during	
the year 1936	£10,260 19 3
the year 1937	£9,334 7 4
the year 1938	£8,741 11 10
Unemployment:—First week in January each year	1937 1938 1939
Total number unemployed	431 435 693

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	{ Legitimate ..	887	439	448	} Birth rate 19·88
	{ Illegitimate ...	17	12	5	
		<u>904</u>	<u>451</u>	<u>453</u>	

Stillbirths	36	Rate per 1,000 total births	38·2
Deaths	474	Crude Death-rate ...	10·42
Areal comparability factor 1·22		Standardised Death-rate	12·71

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth:—

No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis ...	Nil.	Rate per 1000 Births (Live and Still)	0·00
No. 30. Other Puerperal causes	3		3·19

Death-rates of Infants under one year:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	... ..	(51) 56·41
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births	(51)	57·49
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate live births	... ..	nil 0·00

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	53
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	5

3.—BIRTH AND DEATH RATES PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.

				Birth Rates		Death
				Live Birth.	Stillbirths.	Rate.
England and Wales	...	...	...	15.1	0.60	11.6
126 County Borough, and Great Towns, including London	...	...	...	15.0	0.65	11.7
148 Smaller Towns, population 25,000—50,000	...	...	...	15.4	0.60	11.0
London Administrative County...	...	...	...	13.4	0.48	11.4
Oldbury	...	...	...	19.8	0.79	10.42

POPULATION.

The number of persons resident in the Oldbury area at Midsummer, 1938 as estimated by the Registrar General was 45,450. The “natural increase,” or the excess of births over deaths, was 430 so that during the year under review immigration exceeded emigration by approximately 570 persons.

DEATHS.

During the year 1938, 279 deaths were registered in the Oldbury area. Of these 9 were deaths of persons who were not usually resident in the district, while 204 Oldbury residents died in various places outside the district. Therefore the aggregate number of deaths amongst the population belonging to the district was 474 representing a death-rate of 10.42 per thousand of the estimated population. In 1937 there occurred 493 deaths and the rate was 11.09.

Of the 474 deaths, 51 were of infants under 1 year of age, the resultant infantile mortality rate being 56.4 per thousand births. The number for 1937 was 55 and the rate 65.3 per thousand births.

The diseases which were most frequently recorded as causes of death, the deaths thus registered, and the corresponding death-rates per 1,000 of the population were:—

Heart Disease	...	caused 103 deaths or 2.26 per 1,000 residents.
Cancer	...	53 ,, ,, 1.16 ,, ,, ,,
Pneumonia	...	43 ,, ,, 0.94 ,, ,, ,,
Congenital debility, etc.	...	30 ,, ,, 0.66 ,, ,, ,,
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	24 ,, ,, 0.52 ,, ,, ,,
Bronchitis	...	21 ,, ,, 0.46 ,, ,, ,,

HEART DISEASE.

Of the 103 deaths attributed to heart disease, 68 related to persons over the age of 65 years, while 10 were registered as being under 45 years. The disease continues to rank first on the list of most frequent causes. The death rates for the past three years are:—

1936	...	2.65	per 1,000 of the population.
1937	...	2.36	„ „ „ „ „ „
1938	...	2.26	„ „ „ „ „ „

CANCER.

The number of deaths caused by cancer during the year 1938 was 53, giving a death-rate per 1,000 of the population of 1.16 as against 68 and a death-rate of 1.52 for the year 1937.

The following table gives the summary of cancer deaths of males and females and the death-rate per 1,000 of the population for the last 10 years.

Year	ESTIMATED POPULATION	NUMBER OF DEATHS			Rate per 1000 Pop.	AGE DISTRIBUTION				
		Males	Fe- males	Total		5-15 Years	15-25 Years	25-45 Years	45-65 Years	65 years & over
1929	34,190	27	21	48	1.40	...	...	4	22	22
1930	35,000	31	23	54	1.54	...	2	6	30	16
1931	36,370	15	25	40	1.10	...	...	6	15	19
1932	37,660	19	15	34	0.90	...	1	7	10	16
1933	39,560	25	23	48	1.21	...	3	7	25	13
1934	40,720	21	19	40	0.98	...	1	3	16	20
1935	41,900	25	28	53	1.26	...	...	4	25	24
1936	42,990	25	35	60	1.39	...	...	6	31	23
1937	44,450	37	31	68	1.52	1	2	7	29	29
1938	45,450	31	22	53	1.16	...	1	6	29	22

PNEUMONIA AND BRONCHITIS.

During the year 1938 pneumonia as a cause of death was responsible for 43 deaths, equivalent to a rate of 0.94 per thousand of the population as compared with 46 deaths and a rate of 1.03 for the year 1937. In the same period bronchitis caused 21 deaths or a rate of 0.46 per 1,000 of the population. The following gives the number of deaths from bronchitis for the past five years:—

1934	...	...	...	13
1935	...	...	...	23
1936	...	...	...	16
1937	...	...	...	21
1938	...	...	...	21

BLINDNESS.

No action has been taken under Section 61 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Nursing in the Home.

- (a) **General Nursing.** There is at present no provision made by this Authority for nursing in the home. This facility is carried out by the District Nursing Association whose activities extend over the whole of the area.
- (b) **Nursing of infectious diseases.** There is no provision made in this respect other than the visiting of non-notifiable infectious diseases by the School Nurses who visit the homes of school children reported to be suffering from such diseases for the purpose of making enquiries and giving advice on the nursing of such cases.

Midwives.

On 1st April, 1937, the Council became the Local Supervising Authority for the Borough. On 1st July, 1937, the Midwives Act, 1936, was put into operation and the Municipal Midwifery Service was inaugurated.

Laboratory Facilities.

There are arrangements made for the examination of bacteriological specimens and also the typing of pneumonia sputa with the Birmingham University Laboratory, and certain specimens are also sent to the County Laboratory, Worcester.

Legislation in Force.

The following Adoptive Acts and Bye-laws are in force in the district:—

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890	...	6th Dec., 1890.
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (Except Part IV.)	... ..	6th Mar., 1891.
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (Order of Local Government Board declaring Parts II., IV. and VI., and Section 95 in force)...		27th July, 1908.
Public Health Act, 1925 (Part II.)	... ..	7th April, 1925.
Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919	... ..	7th Feb., 1938.
Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933 (Section I.)	...	1st Aug., 1938.

Byelaws and Regulations.

Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	5th April, 1930.
Employment of Children and Young Persons...				1st June, 1936.
Cemetery Regulations	...	...	...	1st Feb., 1938.
Houses let in Lodgings	...	...	...	11th May, 1938.
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	11th May, 1938.
Mortuary and Post-Mortem Rooms	...	...	...	11th May, 1938.
Nursing Homes	...	...	...	11th May, 1938.
Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	11th May, 1938.
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	11th May, 1938.
Pleasure Grounds	...	...	..	11th May, 1938.
Swimming Baths, etc.	...	...	...	11th May, 1938.
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	19th May, 1938.
Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures	...	...	...	28th July, 1938.

INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

NAME.	SITUATION.	PURPOSE.	MANAGEMENT.
West Bromwich & District Hospital,	Edward Street, West Bromwich	General	Voluntary
Hallam Hospital,	Hallam Street, West Bromwich	General and Maternity	West Bromwich Corporation
General Hospital,	Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham	General and Radium Treat- ment of Cancer	Voluntary
Queen's Hospital,	Bath Row, Birmingham	General	Do.
Children's Hospital,	Ladywood Rd., Birmingham	Children's Ailments	Do.
Women's Hospital,	Sparkhill, Birmingham	Women's Diseases	Do.
Eye Hospital,	Church Street, Birmingham	Ophthalmic	Do.
Skin & Urinary Hospital,	John Bright St., Birmingham	Skin and Urinary	Do.
Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital,	Edmund Street, Birmingham	Ear, Nose and Throat	Do.
Royal Cripples' Hospital,	Broad Street, Birmingham	Orthopædic	Do.
Dental Hospital,	Gt. Charles St., Birmingham	Dental	Do.
Maternity Hospital,	Loveday Street, Birmingham	Maternity	Do.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

There is one Nursing and Maternity Home in the Borough for which we are responsible for the supervision.

Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless infants.

Such cases when they arise are brought to the notice of the Committee.

Ambulance Facilities.

- (a) **Infectious Cases.** Motor ambulance kept at Smethwick and Oldbury Joint Hospital. A motor ambulance is provided by the South Staffordshire Joint Small-pox Board at Moxley.
- (b) **Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.** 2 motor ambulances are provided by the Oldbury Council and kept at the Fire Station, Oldbury.
- (c) **Maternity Patients.** The Oldbury ambulance is available for maternity cases and Hallam Hospital ambulance is available for cases under both (b) and (c).

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Name.	Situation.	Sessions.	Accommodation.	Provided.
Oldbury I.W.	Talbot Street, Oldbury.	Monday and Thursday 2 p.m.	Consulting, Infant Weigh- ing and Wait- ing Rooms.	Oldbury Borough Council
Langley I.W.	" The Hollies," Langley.	Wednesday and Friday 2 p.m.	Do.	Do.
Warley I.W.	Bleakhouse Rd.,	Tuesday and Wednesday 2 p.m.	Do.	Do.
Oldbury A.N.	Talbot Street, Oldbury.	Friday 10 a.m.	Consulting and Waiting Rooms.	Do.
Langley A.N.	" The Hollies," Langley.	Thursday 10 a.m.	Do.	Do.
Warley A.N.	Bleakhouse Rd.	Wednesday 10 a.m.	Do.	Do.
Dental Clinic M. and C.W.	Church Street, Oldbury	Wednesday and Friday 4-0 to 5-30 p.m.	Treatment, Waiting and Recovery Rooms.	Do.
Dental Clinic M. and C.W.	Bleakhouse Rd.	Monday and Thursday 4-0 to 5-30 p.m.	Do.	Do.
School Clinic.	Church Street, Oldbury	M.O. and Nurse 9—12 Tuesday Nurse only on Friday 9—12	Consulting, Treatment and Waiting Rooms.	Do.
School Clinic.	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley.	M.O. and Nurse 9—12 Monday Nurse only on Thursday 9—12	Do.	Do
School Clinic,	" The Hollies," Langley.	M.O. and Nurse 9—12 Saturday Nurse only on Wednesday 9—12	Do.	Do.
Dental Clinic S.M.S.	Church Street, Oldbury.	Wednesday and Friday	Do.	Do.
Dental Clinic S.M.S.	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley.	Monday and Thursday.	Do.	Do.
Ophthalmic Clinic.	Church Street, Oldbury.	2nd and 4th Thursday at 2 p.m.	Do.	Do.
Ophthalmic Clinic.	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley.	1st Thursday at 2 p.m.	Do.	Do.
Aural Clinic.	Church Street.	Friday at 2 p.m.	Do.	Do.
Tuberculosis Dispensary.	T.B. Dispensary Greenwood Av. Langley.	Monday 5 p.m.	Do.	Worcester County Council.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Chief Statistics, 1938.

Birth-rate 19.88 per 1,000. (904 live births).

Illegitimate birth-rate 0.37 per 1,000. (17 illegitimate births).

Infant mortality rate 56.41 per 1,000 live births. (51 deaths).

Stillbirths 38.2 per 1,000 live and stillbirths. (36 stillbirths).

Neo-natal mortality 38.71 per 1,000 live births. (35 deaths).
(Infant deaths in the first four weeks of life).

Deaths from one to two years 4.71 per 1,000 of the estimated age population. (4 deaths).

Deaths from two to five years 1.98 per 1,000 of the estimated age population. (5 deaths).

Child population under five (estimated) 4,340.

Maternal mortality rate 3.19 per 1,000 live and stillbirths (3 deaths).

Births.

The number of live births registered to parents normally resident in the Oldbury area during the year 1938 reached a total of 904, there being 451 males and 453 females, representing a birth-rate of 19.88 per thousand of the estimated population.

Of the 904 live births, 17 were illegitimate. There were 12 boys and 5 girls.

The following table indicates the Ward distribution of the births registered in the Borough since 1936:—

	1936	1937	1938
Central Ward ...	94	94	87
Broadwell Ward...	126	144	127
Brandhall Ward ...	84	68	94
Bristnall Ward ...	117	79	85
Rounds Green Ward ...	67	64	59
Langley Ward ...	77	88	110
Warley Ward ...	175	225	208
TOTALS ...	740	762	770

Stillbirths.

There were 36 still births registered during 1938, giving a rate of 38.2 per thousand live and stillbirths, or 0.79 per thousand population. The figures for the five previous years were:—

1933	...	25 or 35.4 per 1,000 live and stillbirths and 0.6 per 1,000 population.
1934	...	38 or 46.2 per 1,000 live and stillbirths and 0.93 per 1,000 population.
1935	...	35 or 41.4 per 1,000 live and stillbirths and 0.83 per 1,000 population.
1936	...	35 or 41.4 per 1,000 live and stillbirths and 0.81 per 1,000 population.
1937	...	50 or 56.0 per 1,000 live and stillbirths and 1.12 per 1,000 population.

SUMMARY OF CAUSES OF STILLBIRTHS.

From available records:—

(1) Death of the foetus during pregnancy:—

(a) Syphilis and other chronic diseases	...	...	Nil
(b) Toxæmia of pregnancy (eclampsia, albuminuria, retro-placental hæmorrhage, etc.)	...	...	6
(c) Malformations incompatible with life	...	...	5
(d) Occupational poisonings	...	...	Nil
(e) Unknown causes	...	...	4

(2) Death due to premature birth (debility incompatible with extra-uterine survival):—

(i) Infants otherwise healthy:—

(a) Overwork of mother	...	...	Nil
(b) Violent traumatism inducing premature labour	...	...	Nil
(c) Malpresentation	...	...	Nil

(ii) Infants otherwise unhealthy or defective:—

(a) Acute infections	...	...	Nil
(b) Chronic infections, particularly syphilis	...	...	Nil
(c) Maternal or foetal diseases (diseases of the heart, pernicious anæmia, etc., for example, such conditions may terminate pregnancy spontaneously or necessitate the artificial emptying of the uterus)	...	...	2

(3) Death of foetus during labour (death due to mechanical causes):—

(i) Malpresentations:—

(a) Shoulder	...	...	...	...	1
(b) Breech	...	...	...	...	5
(c) Face	..	...	...	...	Nil

(ii) Obstacles to the birth of the infant:—

(a) Contracted pelvis	...	...	...	4
(b) Tumour obstructing birth-canal	...	...	...	Nil
(c) Anomalies in the dilation of the birth-canal	...	...	...	Nil
(d) Malposition of the placenta	...	...	...	2

(iii) Miscellaneous (almost always secondary causes associated with one of the causes already mentioned):—

(a) Protrusions of the cord	...	...	3
(b) Abnormal uterine contractions	...	...	Nil
(c) Infections of the foetus	...	...	Nil

(iv) Other exceptional causes:—

(a) Excessive size of foetus	...	...	Nil
(b) Dystocia due to presence of twins	...	...	Nil
(c) Monstrosity capable of more or less prolonged survival but causing dystocia, e.g., hydrocephalus	...	...	Nil

(4) Unknown causes	...	...	...	...	4
(5) B.B.A.	...	...	...	...	Nil

Infantile Mortality.

There were 51 deaths of infants under one year of age of which 35 were Neo-Natal (within 4 weeks of birth), during the year 1938, giving an infantile mortality rate of 56.41 per 1,000 births. The numbers for the previous three years were:—

1935 ... 52 or 65.6 per 1,000 births.

1936 ... 47 or 55.6 per 1,000 births.

1937 ... 51 or 65.3 per 1,000 births.

The cause of death is given in each case in Table IV. at the end of the Report.

Maternal Mortality.

Three mothers died in childbirth, equivalent to a rate of 3.19 per 1,000 (live and still) births.

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.

	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933
Number of cases of Puerperal Fever	—	—	2	—
Number of cases of Puerperal Pyrexia	12	3	8	8

The following consultants are available where medical practitioners require a second opinion:—Sir Harold Beckwith Whitehouse, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), Mr Alfred Danby, F.R.C.S. (Edin.), Mr. J. S. M. Connell, F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

Arrangements have been made with the Women's Hospital, Birmingham, whereby any member of the staff may be called-in in a consultant capacity.

Hospital treatment for cases of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia can be obtained at the General Hospital and the Women's Hospital, Birmingham, and at Hallam Hospital, West Bromwich. Bacteriological examinations and serum treatment are available in all cases where such may be required.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

During the year 1938 there were 8 cases of this disease notified in the district with a resultant rate of 8.8 per thousand births as compared with 10 cases and a rate of 11.8 for the year 1937:—

In-patient and out-patient treatment have been provided for by arrangement with the Birmingham Eye Hospital and the Guest Hospital, Dudley, both mother and infant being admitted to hospital in cases of breast-fed babies. Home treatment is undertaken by arrangement made through the medical practitioner or at the request of the hospital with the Oldbury Nursing Association.

A summary of the available information regarding the cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified during the year is given in the following table:—

CASES			Vision Un- impaired	Vision Im- paired.	Total Blind- ness.	Deaths.	Removed from District
Notified.	Treated						
	At Home.	In Hospital					
8	7	1	8	—	—	—	—

All the cases appear to be of a mild type.

Midwives Acts, 1902-26.

Following application to the Minister of Health the local supervision of midwives was transferred from the Worcestershire County Council to the Borough Council on 1st April, 1937.

Notices of intention to practise were received from 27 midwives up to the end of the year; six of these notifications were received from the District Nursing Association who undertook to provide the services of one whole-time midwife when the Municipal Midwifery Service came into operation; five notifications were received from midwives associated with the Maternity and Nursing Home; six notifications were received from midwives resident outside the Borough; four notifications were received from independent midwives living in the Borough; and six notifications were from midwives in the Municipal Midwifery Service.

During the year one midwife surrendered her certificate, one midwife ceased to practice, and at the end of the year there were only two independent midwives living in the Borough and actively engaged in private practice.

Four midwives were suspended to prevent infection.

There was no occasion during the year in which it was necessary to report a midwife to the Central Midwives Board.

The Supervisor of Midwives makes routine visits to midwives practising in the Borough each month and any special visits that are necessary. Reports are also made on all cases of stillbirth, neo-natal death, ophthalmia neonatorum, pemphigus, and puerperal sepsis. Maternity homes are also visited each month. The Supervisor of Midwives attends and assists at all Ante-Natal Clinics and is responsible for the allocation of midwifery cases and the smooth running of the Municipal Midwifery Service.

There is one Maternity and Nursing Home and this is visited monthly by the Supervisor of Midwives.

MEDICAL AID.

Medical Aid was required by midwives on 258 occasions up to the end of the year and a summary of records received is set out below:—

Mother.

Torn perineum	...	...	...	78
Prolonged labour	...	...	...	17
Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	12
Rise of temperature	...	...	...	14
Obstructed labour	...	...	...	9
Abnormal presentation	...	...	...	12
Adherent placenta	...	...	...	9
Albuminuria	...	...	...	6
Miscarriage	...	...	...	10
Premature labour	...	...	...	3
Erisiotomy	...	...	...	2
Uterine inertia...	...	...	...	3
Retention of urine	...	...	...	1
Other causes	...	...	...	19
Total				<hr/> 195 <hr/>

Child.

Discharging Eye	...	...	...	23
Prematurity	...	...	...	6
Debility	...	...	...	8
Jaundice	...	...	...	3
Retention of urine	...	...	...	1
Cephalhæmatomæ	...	...	...	1
Cyanosis	...	...	...	3
Melœna	...	...	...	1
Convulsions	...	...	...	2
Atelectasis	...	...	...	1
Other causes	...	...	...	14
Total				<hr/> 63 <hr/>

Notifications Received from Midwives.

The following notifications were also received from midwives practising in the Borough:—

Intention to practise	...	...	...	27
Sending for medical help	...	...	...	258
Attendances at stillbirths	...	...	...	6
Artificial feeding	...	...	...	23
Liability to be a source of infection	...	...	...	15
Death of mother and child	...	...	...	11

Institutional Accommodation for Maternity Cases.

As Local Supervising Authority the Corporation took over the arrangements made by the Worcester County Council with the West Bromwich Corporation for the provision of six beds in the Maternity Ward at Hallam Hospital for the accommodation of Oldbury cases, with the proviso that additional beds would be available as required.

The following table shows the number of Oldbury residents who were confined in Hallam Hospital under the above arrangements, also the number of residents who made their own arrangements with other institutions outside the area:—

Institution.	Living.	Stillborn.
Hallam Hospital	128	12
Birmingham Maternity Hospital ...	21	3
General Hospital	4	1
Queen's Hospital	4	1
Dudley Road Hospital	1	—
Poplars Nursing Home	40	—
St. Chad's Hospital	5	—
Rosemary Ednam Maternity Home ...	1	—
Mary Stevens Maternity Home ...	2	1
Other Maternity Homes	13	—
Totals	219	18

Midwives Act, 1936.

On 1st January, 1938, there were four Municipal Midwives on the staff and in addition the Oldbury District Nursing Association provided the services of one whole-time Midwife.

Further Municipal Midwives were engaged in February and July so that by the end of the year there were six Municipal Midwives on the staff plus one Midwife provided by the District Nursing Association.

The following table indicates the work undertaken by the six Municipal Midwives:—

Deliveries	437
Morning nursings	6,026
Evening nursings	1,624
Ante-natal Clinics attended ...	180
Ante-natal visits	2,966
Special visits	507

As the total months of service provided by the six Municipal Midwives amounted to 65, the average number of cases undertaken by each midwife per month was 6.72. After allowing for four months annual holiday the average number of cases undertaken was 7.1, and after making further allowance for six months illness the average rises to 7.9.

Work of Health Visitors.

The five health visitors employed by the Council are each engaged in distinct portions of the district, which, although differing in area, to some extent bear similar numbers of infants, children between 1 and 5 years, and school children.

The Health Visiting staff is equivalent to the services of two and half full-time Health Visitors and in their official capacity as such, visit infants and children between one and five years of age, expectant mothers, cases of ophthalmia neonatorum, children under the Children's Act, 1908, as amended by Part V. of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1932. During the year 12,918 visits were paid to the homes in the district and 620 sessions were accounted for by Ante-natal and Infant Welfare Centres. During seven-and-half months of the year the staff was reduced owing to vacancies.

It must be borne in mind that, up to a point, the efficiency of a Health Visitor's work is in inverse ratio to the number of patients seen.

The following table gives a summary of the work of the health visitor's for the year 1938 in comparison with that for the previous year:—

	1937.	1938.
Primary visits under 12 months	838	885
Re-visits under 12 months	3589	3238
Visits to children between 1 and 5 years...	7560	6752
Primary visits to Expectant Mothers	171	163
Re-visits to Expectant Mothers	98	99
Special visits	422	468
Totals	<u>12,678</u>	<u>11,605</u>

In addition, during the year 1938 there were 52 visits for the purpose of making enquiries into the causes of infantile deaths and 36 for stillbirths. The number of ineffective visits was 1,225.

Public Health Act, 1936, Sections 206 to 220.

The five health visitors are duly appointed infant life protection visitors under the above Act, and it is their duty to visit from time to time infants notified to this Authority under the Act.

For the year 1938, the Register to be kept under the Act, indicates:—

- (1) Number of foster-parents—
 - (a) at the beginning of the year ... 6
 - (b) at the end of the year ... 5
- (2) Number of children—
 - (a) at the beginning of the year ... 6
 - (b) at the end of the year ... 5
 - (c) who died during the year... ..

In no instance was it found necessary to take proceedings under powers contained in the Act.

Infant Welfare Centres.

During the year the Borough was served by three Centres, namely, Oldbury, Langley and Warley. Two sessions per week were held at each Centre.

In the course of the year 721 or 79.58% of the babies born in the area were brought to the Centres, and in addition 399 new cases of children between the ages of one and five years attended.

There is an average attendance of 72 at each of the six sessions held weekly. A Medical Officer attends only three sessions each week the average number examined being 23 per session, which is more than can be efficiently examined and properly recorded in any one session.

The following table gives particulars of the attendances at each of the three welfare centres and the numbers for 1937 for the purpose of comparison.

CENTRE.	Number of Sessions.		NO OF ATTENDANCES.				SEEN BY DOCTOR.	
			Under 1.		Over 1			
	1937	1938	1937	1938	1937	1938	1937	1938
Oldbury ...	99	99	3189	3886	3875	3648	1360	1446
Langley ..	84	101	3024	3897	3025	3379	1157	1267
Warley .	45	94	2964	3251	2521	3202	1283	1196
Totals ..	228	294	9177	11034	9421	10229	3820	3909

Routine Medical Inspection of Children between the ages of three and four years.

This routine inspection has for its object the ascertainment of defects in the pre-school child and their remedy before the child commences school. The work of the department however, is such that it is not possible to earmark even one session per week to this work, but by using the school holidays and every other available opportunity, it is possible each year to medically examine a number of children between three and four years of age.

The following is a summary of the findings of medical inspections during 1938:—

Number of children examined	...	...	364
Number found to have defects	...	...	115
Number of defects referred for treatment	...	...	93
Number of defects referred for observation	...	...	51
Total number of defects	...	...	144
Children of average nutrition	...	...	238
Children above average nutrition	...	...	113
Children below average nutrition	...	...	13
Children showing malnutrition	...	...	Nil

Defect or Disease.

Impetigo	...	...	...	...	1
Other Skin Diseases	...	...	...	...	6
Blepharitis	...	...	...	...	1
Conjunctivitis	...	...	...	...	1
Strabismus	...	...	...	...	6
Otorrhœa	...	...	...	...	2
Enlarged tonsils	...	...	...	...	1
Tonsils and adenoids	...	...	...	...	2
Tonsilitis	...	...	...	...	8
Nasal Catarrh	...	...	...	...	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	9
Defective speech	...	...	...	...	1
Anæmia	...	...	...	...	18
Other defects and diseases	...	...	...	...	35

Ante-Natal Clinics.

There are three ante-natal clinics in operation, namely Oldbury, Langley and Warley, at which a session is held each week.

The home visiting of expectant mothers attending the ante-natal clinics is undertaken by the health visitors. In all cases where a doctor or a midwife refers a patient to the Clinic a report is sent after the first visit, and each subsequent visit, and all midwives are instructed to take such reports to the confinement and hand them to any doctor called in. This ensures complete ante natal history being available for any doctor who is called to a confinement, as the midwives hold the records of all cases which attend the ante-natal clinics.

The attendances at the respective clinics were as follows:—

	OLDBURY.		LANGLEY.		WARLEY.		TOTALS.	
	1937	1938	1937	1938	1937	1938	1937	1938
Number of Sessions ..	50	50	50	51	50	51	150	152
New Ante-Natal Cases	202	176	173	212	203	173	578	561
Attendances	600	579	610	738	664	557	1874	1874
Average per Session ..	12	11	12	14	13	11	12	12
New Post-Natal Cases	13	15	18	9	25	16	56	40
Post-Natal Attendances	27	20	25	25	33	28	85	73

The number of 561 new cases is 59.61% of the total notified pregnancies occurring in the district. The percentage for the previous year was 64.15. The following is a summary of the findings:—

Abnormalities found on 1st visit.	Treated at home.	Treated by own Doctor.	Treated in Hospital.
Cardiac defect	30	2	3
Bronchitis	5	1	1
Tuberculosis	—	1	—
Albuminuria	8	1	2
Hyperemesis	6	3	—
Hyperpiesis	10	—	—
Leucorrhœa	48	—	—
Varicose Veins	43	2	1
Goitre	4	1	—
Anæmia	7	1	—
Hæmatemesis	1	—	—
Influenza	—	2	—
Ante-partum Hæmorrhage ...	17	1	—
Other defects	18	1	1

No. of cases with dental defects...	...	238
No. confined in hospital	...	28
No. of twin birth	...	9
No. of abortions	...	4
No. of surgical inductions	...	7
No. of Cæsarean sections	...	1
No. of still-births	...	7

Of the 561 cases attending the Clinic during the year, 28 were confined in Hospital and the remainder delivered at home by mid-wives and/or doctors.

The expectant mother requires additional nourishment to maintain not only her health during pregnancy, but also her fitness to breast-feed her baby afterwards, and 123 packets of milk food have been given free. The value of milk so given is unquestioned.

Many women still refuse dental treatment during pregnancy. The mistaken idea that such treatment will in some way affect the baby will, no doubt, pass when it is more universally realised that greater harm is done to the child by septic teeth than by dental extraction.

Post-Natal Clinics.

Up to the present time no post-natal clinics have been opened, although 40 post-natal cases made 73 attendances during the year at the ante-natal clinics in the area, and I consider that the time has arrived when this work should be extended and every mother encouraged to attend on one or more occasions in order that any defect resulting from previous confinement can be rectified. This, however, would entail the opening of three Post-Natal Clinics at the various Centres, and it is hoped that such clinics will be opened in the near future.

Home Helps.

A Scheme for the provision of Home Helps was submitted to the Committee, but in view of the absence of a demand for such a service in the area consideration of the matter was deferred.

Cases advised Birth Control on medical grounds, 1938.

There were four cases advised during the year.

Dental Treatment of Expectant Mothers.

The following figures summarise the work. The figures for 1937 are in brackets.

Rate of Work.

No. of new cases taken on during 1938	136	(123)
No. of these who have had all work completed...	80	(66)
No. of 1937 cases who have had work completed		
in 1938	29	(37)
<hr/>		
Total No. with all work completed...	109	(103)
<hr/>		

Attendances.

No. of visits for interview	...	...	...	270	(253)
No. of visits for denture making and service	...	...	...	260	(106)
No. of visits for operative treatment	...	...	...	274	(253)

Operative Treatment.

No. of fillings	...	...	...	26	(47)
No. of scalings and cleaning...	...	...	...	15	(18)

Local Anæsthesia (Waites Procaine) was
administered 206 (225) times and
595 (758) teeth removed.

Gas as general anæsthetic was
administered 36 (8) times and
527 (105) teeth removed.

Total extractions ... 1122 (824)

Artificial Dentures.

No. of patients who were estimated to require dentures	93	(66)
No. of dentures made and supplied	...	96 (78)

Dental Treatment for Pre-School Children.

So far the dental treatment for these patients is purely an emergency procedure directed towards the relief of toothache. Extractions are the rule. This year 171 (112) children were treated, 341 (159) teeth removed, and 22 teeth were filled.

Ophthalmic Treatment.

Those children attending the Welfare Centres noted to be suffering from defective vision or other eye condition are sent to Mr. Rudd, the Ophthalmic Specialist at the School Clinic. During 1938, 24 children were examined, and Mr. Rudd's analysis of the cases shows the following conditions to have been present:—

Strabismus	...	...	...	18
Blepharitis	...	...	...	1
Corneal Ulcer	...	...	...	1
Congenital Cataract	...	...	...	1
Blind	..	...	...	1
No defect found	...	...	...	2

Spectacles were recommended in 12 cases, and in 1 case these were provided at the Council's expense.

Orthopædic Treatment.

Children found at the Welfare Centres and at the routine (3 year olds) inspections to be suffering from some form of crippling conditions are referred to the Royal Cripples' Hospital, Birmingham, where they are examined, and if necessary treated. It is often found that parents are unwilling and sometimes unable to spare the time and money necessary for visits to the Royal Cripples' Hospital, which is situated about five miles from the district.

The following are the cases which attended the Cripples' Hospital during the year.

Double talipes equino varus	...	...	2
Left talipes equino varus	...	...	1
Right talipes equino varus	...	...	1
Flat feet	...	...	2
Double knock-knee	...	...	3
Spastic valgus	...	...	1
Genu varum	...	...	4

Aural Treatment.

The routine medical inspections of children between the ages of 3 and 4 years brings to light many instances of diseases of the ear, nose and throat. These, together with such cases found at the Welfare Centres, are referred to the School Aural Clinic where if possible they are treated. During the year 1938 the number amounted to 12 and the following is the summary of the defects found:—

Enlarged Tonsils	...	...	4
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	...	...	3
Otorrhœa	...	...	5

Milk Assistance Scheme.

There is a scheme in operation whereby free milk is supplied to expectant and nursing mothers and infants up to five years of age who attend the Ante-Natal and Welfare Clinics and for whom a supply of milk is recommended by the Medical Officer. The cost of the free supplies of milk to the Council during 1938 was £194 11s. 3d. The number of times on which milk was given was as follows:—

	Free.	Half-Price.
Expectant mothers	123	4
Nursing mothers	257	9
Children under 3 years	2592	193
Children 3 to 5	38	—

For the same period dried milk and other foods to the value of £972 17s. 10½d. were sold at the Welfare Centres.

Voluntary Committees.

The voluntary work by the various Committees continued throughout the year and we are very grateful indeed to the ladies for their untiring efforts on behalf of the mothers and children. The opening of the Infant Welfare Centres on two days per week has imposed a very heavy burden on their time.

The Voluntary Committees at Oldbury, Langley and Warley were able to help by providing the money for the purchase of foods to those people who did not come within the Council's Milk Assistance Scheme. Fresh and dried milk, cod liver oil, etc., to the value of £10 11s. od. was given by the Voluntary Committee at Oldbury, £7 1s. 3d. was the value of foods given by the Langley Voluntary Committee and £5 11s. 3d. the value of foods given by the Voluntary Committee at Warley.

The Oldbury Voluntary Committee was able to send five children to Rhyl.

The Langley Voluntary Committee also sent two children to Weston-super-Mare for three weeks and one child to Rhyl for three weeks.

Health Propaganda.

Efforts were made to increase the use made by the public of the health services provided by the Council. Demonstrations and talks, illustrated by talking films, were held in connection with the three Infant Welfare Centres and all mothers not already attending were invited to be present.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The water supply is obtained from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company and is satisfactory both as to quantity and quality. The main supply is from deep bores together with a certain amount of surface water which is treated prior to admission to the service reservoir.

A bacteriological report and a chemical analysis is supplied by the Company each month and similar reports are obtained on samples taken by the Sanitary Department monthly.

The total number of houses in the area connected to the mains at the end of 1938 was 13,222.

Twenty-seven houses were found to have deficient water supplies and have been dealt with and ten samples of water were sent for analysis. The following is a report on an average sample sent for analysis:—

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS.

Sample of Town Water marked No. 78, Old Park Lane.
December 20th, 1938.

I certify that I have examined the above sample chemically and bacteriologically with the following results:—

Physical Characters. Clear, odourless.
Deposit, none.

					Parts per 100,000.
Chemical Examination.					
Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100°C.)	...				None
Solids in Solution (Dried at 100°C.)	...				21
„ „ „ After Ignition	...				16
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	...				5
Hardness, Permanent	...	...	...		7
„ Temporary	...	...	...		4
„ Total	...	...	...		11
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...		0.0008
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...		0.001
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	...		Trace
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	...		None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	...	...	...		None
Toxic Metals	...	...	...	...	None detected

(Note.—To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon multiply by 0.7).

Bacteriological Examination.

Number of colonies developing upon Agar.

(a) In two days at 37°C.	...	...	2 per one m.l.
(b) In three days at 22°C.	...	...	6 per one m.l.
Coli-aerogenes (presumptive coli) count	...	...	Nil per 100 m.l.
B. Typhosus	...	...	Nil per 100 m.l.
Cl. Welchii	...	...	Nil per 250 m.l.
Streptococci	...	...	Not detected.

Opinion.

The sample is of good quality and fit for drinking.

(Signed) H. E. MONK,
County Analyst.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Consulting Engineers have been instructed to prepare a Scheme for the final instalment of the Sewerage Disposal Works.

Closet Accommodation.

During the year 1938, 12 additional water closets were provided in comparison with 14 in the previous year.

There were 8 privy-midden and 17 earth pail closets in use at the end of the year.

Public Cleansing.

The following are the figures relating to the removal of refuse:—

Number of houses from which refuse was removed	...	...	13,294
Number of privies cleansed	...	...	9
Number of ashpits cleansed	...	...	—
Number of emptyings of ashbins	...	...	691,288

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following tables constitute the tabular statement required to be submitted to the Medical Officer of Health by the Chief Sanitary Inspector under Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926:—

Summary of Inspections and Re-visits during the year 1938.

					Inspection	Re-visits
Infectious Disease Prevention	...	...	...	...	342	208
Houses and Premises	...	...	...	...	982	2180
Houses in Clearance Areas	..	...	...	...	37	142
Water closets and drains	...	...	..	...	146	309
House and Trade refuse storage	...	...	...	...	891	1005
Slaughterhouses, market and shops	...	...	...	...	948	7
Dairies, cowsheds and milkshops	...	...	...	...	266	40
Ice Cream Shops	...	...	...	...	8	—
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	16	89
Keeping of animals and poultry so as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	...	4	2
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	23	245
Factories	...	...	...	...	40	20
Dirty and verminous houses and premises	...	...	...	...	29	15
Canal Boats	...	...	...	...	28	1
Common Lodging Houses and Houses-let-in lodgings	...	...	...	...	34	1
Offensive trade premises	...	...	...	...	70	19
Tents, vans and sheds (including temporary buildings)	...	...	...	...	1	—
Smoke nuisances (including inspections of boilers and furnaces)	...	...	...	...	29	7
Refuse disposal tips	...	...	...	...	353	—
Derelict buildings	...	...	...	...	3	7
Rats and mice nuisances	...	...	...	...	12	27
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	315	127
Number of interviews	...	...	...	...		482

Summary of notices served during the year 1938.

					Prelim- inary.	Statu- tory.
To provide proper and sufficient drains to houses ...					1	—
To cleanse and/or repair houses after infectious disease					23	—
Housing Act, 1936					46	9
Public Health Acts					227	55
To provide dustbins					258	84
Overcrowding					—	2
Smoke nuisances					—	2
Houses-let-in-lodgings					1	2
Shops Act, 1934					6	2
O.U.D.C. Act—defective drains, w.c.'s, etc. ...					—	20
O.U.D.C. Act—dilapidated and neglected buildings					3	2
To provide wholesome water supply to houses ...					1	—
					<hr/>	<hr/>
				Totals ...	566	178
					<hr/>	<hr/>

Shops.

The administration of the Shops Act, 1934, has been relegated to another Department, and I have no information available.

Smoke Abatement.

The installation of modern apparatus, in two instances prevented a nuisance from smoke, and in five other instances nuisances were abated.

Schools.

On the whole the sanitary condition of the schools is satisfactory, with the exception of the teachers' rooms at the Warley Council School, and, in view of the previous reports, I would recommend the closure of these two rooms.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

The Langley Public Swimming Baths were opened on 8th May, 1937, and have proved to be very popular. The water is sampled monthly and is very satisfactory.

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and Factories Act 1937.

1.—Inspections.

Premises. (1)	NUMBER OF		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices including Letters. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories with Mechanical Power ...	46	Nil.	Nil.
Factories without Mechanical Power .	14	2	Nil.
Other Premises	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Total	60	2	Nil.

2.—Defects found.

PARTICULARS. (1)	NUMBER OF DEFECTS.			Number of Offences in respect of which Prosecutions were Instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H M. Inspector. (4)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ...	2	3	...	...
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) ...	...	...	...	...
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	...	...	...	...
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6) ...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences:- (S.7)	...	...	...	...
Insufficient ... ..	...	1	...	...
Unsuitable or Defective ...	...	2	...	...
Not separate for Sexes ...	...	...	...	...
Other Offences	2	2	...	...
Total ...	4	8	...	...

Note.—Four of the defects remedied relate to Notices served during the year 1937.

3.—Outwork in Unwholesome Premises ... Nil

HOUSING.

The housing needs continue to increase and to complete the Slum Clearance Programme 300 houses are needed. 155 houses mainly of the 4 bedroom type are required for overcrowded families, 120 houses per year for newly-married couples and there are approximately 500 ordinary applications for houses each year. It will be seen, therefore, that over 1,000 houses are required to meet the most urgent needs.

In addition to the 214 houses erected by the Council there were 117 erected by the Smethwick Corporation and 428 by private enterprise.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year 1938:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	904
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	3,092
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	297
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,383
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	244
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	660

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	513
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	9
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:—

(a) By owners	18
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners...	—

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 104

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners	90
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners...	—

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made 87

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 66

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 2

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit —

4.—Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—

(a)—(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 155
 (2) Number of families dwelling therein ... 165
 (3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 1,264

(b)— Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 13

(c)—(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 76

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 590

(d)—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling- No
houses have again become overcrowded after such
the Local Authority have taken steps for the cases
abatement of overcrowding. known

(e)—Three houses included in 4 (b) became over-
crowded illegally and action by the Local
Authority has resulted in these cases being
relieved.

CLEARANCE AREAS.

5.—Number of dwelling-houses included in Clearance Areas which were demolished during the year...	75
6.—Alternative undertakings to Demolition Orders:—	
Number of unfit houses in connection with which alternative undertakings to Demolition Orders have been accepted	44
(1) Number of houses in respect of which alternative undertakings accepted have been carried out ...	31
(2) Number of such houses in respect of which alternative undertakings have been cancelled, the work not having been commenced and Demolition Orders served	—
(3) Number of unfit houses re-conditioned and made fit for habitation	4
(4) Number of unfit houses closed for human habita- tion but not demolished	1
(5) Number of back-to-back or single houses converted into through ventilated houses (leaving 13) ...	26

Additional Statistics.

Number of other houses demolished (without service of Demolition Orders)	14
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INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

The taking of samples under the Food and Drugs Act was continued.

Total number of registered dairy farms in the area ... 8

Total number of retailers in the district:—

Registered (including producers) ... 62

Number of licences under Milk (Special Designations) Order:—

	Pasteurised.	Accredited.	Tuberculin Tested.
Bottlers ...	—	1	1
Retailers ...	14	15	15
Producers ...	—	1	—

Approximate number of milking cows in the district ... 52

Meat and Other Foods.

The inspection of slaughterhouses and shops was carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors and number 646. Contraventions of the Bye-laws or defects were found in three instances. The number of cases of slaughtering on unlicensed premises reported was 10.

Food Adulteration.

The Food and Drugs Consolidated Act, the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927 and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925 and 1927, are administered by the Worcestershire County Council (although this Council is an Authority under the Act and Regulations).

The County Inspector of Weights and Measures has been good enough to furnish the information that 36 samples of food and drugs were submitted to the County Analyst during 1938. In all cases they were found to be genuine.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Small Pox.

There were no cases during the year and fortunately so as the small numbers vaccinated will do nothing to protect any but those individuals vaccinated and re-vaccinated.

Number of babies vaccinated	...	...	106
Number of conscientious objections	...	...	493
Babies dying under four months...	...	...	23
Children not vaccinated	..	...	143

Scarlet Fever.

This disease has so far continued to be of the mild type noted in my previous report. There were 85 cases during 1938 with no deaths as against 72 with 1 death in 1937. Of these cases 40 were removed to hospital compared with 27 in the previous year. The anti-scarlet fever serum provided by the Council free of charge to all practitioners applying, has I regret to say, been taken little advantage of. 33,000 units of serum were supplied to medical practitioners during the year as compared with 70,000 units in 1937.

Diphtheria.

During 1938, 63 cases occurred and there were 5 deaths as compared with 72 cases and 5 deaths in 1937. The majority of the cases were of a mild type.

Much more general advantage has been taken of the cheaper supply of milk in the schools and all necessitous cases are supplied free if their income is within the Council's financial scale.

Immunisation against diphtheria is given free to all children under school leaving age though the response has been disappointing. The number has fallen so low as to be negligible as a preventive measure against Diphtheria and I would advise the Council to open a special clinic for the work every week.

904,000 units of diphtheria anti toxin were supplied to medical practitioners during the year as compared with 928,000 units in 1937.

Pneumonia and Influenza.

One hundred and sixteen cases of pneumonia were notified and there were 43 deaths as compared with 97 cases and 46 deaths in 1937.

On receipt of the Ministry's Memorandum on pneumonia (Memo. 189/Med.) the Council made the necessary arrangements with the Birmingham University for the typing of pneumonia sputa on receipt of same from general practitioners, and the supply of the necessary serum for the treatment of such cases free of charge. Prior to the completion of the type sera arrangements have been made with Messrs. Boots, Ltd., New Street, Birmingham, for the necessary stock sera to carry on treatment.

Erysipelas.

There were 16 cases of erysipelas notified. There is still no hospital accommodation available for these cases.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

In no instance during the year was measles or whooping cough recorded as the cause of death. The numbers for 1937 were measles 5 and whooping cough 5. The School Nurses continue to visit and give advice and help to all cases notified by the Head Teacher as being absent from school on account of these diseases.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

No cases were notified during the year.

Cerebro-spinal Fever.

There were 3 cases notified during the year.

Infantile Diarrhoea.

There were 5 deaths from infantile diarrhoea. In the majority of cases death occurred outside the area.

Tuberculosis.

With the County Medical Officer's consent, Dr. Deaner has kindly supplied me with the following report on the incidence of tuberculosis in the district.

YEAR.	POPULATION.	Crude Death Rate.	T. B.—DEATHS.				NOTIFICATIONS.			
			Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.	
			No	Rate.	No.	Rate	No	Rate.	No	Rate.
1938	45,450	10·42	30	0·6600	6	0·1320	47	1·0340	12	0·2640
1937	44,450	11·09	25	0·5623	11	0·2474	63	1·4172	19	0·4274
1936	42,990	10·28	35	0·8141	3	0·0697	81	1·8840	12	0·2791
1935	41,900	9·71	31	0·7397	5	0·1193	47	1·1216	12	0·2863
1934	40,720	10·04	29	0·7121	4	0·0982	70	1·7190	11	0·2701
1933	39,560	10·50	23	0·5813	2	0·0505	76	1·9210	8	0·2022
1932	37,660	10·10	21	0·5575	2	0·0531	45	1·1948	9	0·2389
1931	36,370	11·10	21	0·5773	7	0·1924	42	1·1597	14	0·3849

In 1938 the number of notifications was 47 as compared with 63 in 1937. The number of deaths was 30, five more than in the previous year.

The following table gives the notifications and deaths in the respective age groups:—

			Notifications.		Deaths.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.
15—19	...	2	6	1	5	
20—24	...	3	6	3	0	
25—34	...	8	3	3	3	
35—44	...	2	5	1	4	
45—54	...	5	1	4	0	
55—64	...	5	0	4	0	
65 and over	...	1	0	2	0	
			—	—	—	—
Totals			26	21	18	12
			—	—	—	—

There were 9 transfer cases this year, the corresponding number in 1937 being 15. Such cases continue to maintain a high incidence rate.

There are two significant features to be noted in the table under "Deaths":—

1. The high death rate in the female 15—19 age group. All the cases died within the year of notification. The progress of the disease at this age is acute, treatment is urgent and therefore all suspicious cases require immediate investigation for diagnosis and treatment.
2. The male 45—64 groups consist of cases in which the disease is chronic and of long standing. It is the last which is mainly responsible for disseminating the disease amongst the young adolescents. The problem here is not so much treatment as of isolation.

There can be no complacency about our tuberculosis figures. The co-operation of the patients and their relatives with their own doctors and the tuberculosis service is imperative. The general practitioners do their utmost to bring contacts and likely cases to our notice, but the initiative is primarily with the patients and contacts themselves.

One great feature in association with the scheme is the promptitude with which the Local Authority, through its After-Care Committee re-houses its tuberculous patients, thus diluting infection and improving the environment of the contacts.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of the Whole District during 1938 and previous five years.

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Number.	Rate.	Of Non- residents registered in the District	Of Resi- dents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.	
		Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.		
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1933	39,560	680	17.4	265	6.7	3	152	61	89.7	414	10.5
1934	40,720	780	19.2	260	6.4	8	157	50	63.7	409	10.04
1935	41,900	792	18.9	251	5.9	4	160	52	65.6	407	9.71
1936	42,990	845	19.65	271	6.3	7	178	47	55.6	442	10.28
1937	44,450	842	18.94	308	6.8	6	191	55	65.3	493	11.09
1938	45,450	904	19.88	279	6.1	9	204	51	56.4	474	10.42

TABLE II.—Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during the Year 1938.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.													Total Cases Notified in each Ward.						Total cases re-moved to Hospital.	TOTAL DEATHS				
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.												Central.	Broadwell.	Brandhall.	Rounds Green.	Langley.	Warley.			Bristnall.			
		Under 1.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 3.	3 and under 4.	4 and under 5.	5 and under 10.	10 and under 15.	15 and under 20.	20 and under 35.	35 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.												
Small-Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	85	1	8	4	8	37	17	6	2	2	2	...	...	5	4	4	5	49	13	40	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	63	2	4	4	5	29	9	7	2	1	...	...	...	6	4	7	9	26	5	55	...	...	...	...	5
Typhoid Fever (Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	116	4	5	4	5	20	6	8	17	10	...	28	2	21	23	2	16	21	13	18	...	...	...	...	43
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	2	2	1	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	9	2	2	...	...	3	...	1	...	4	2	4	+	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	8	...	3	1	1	3	...	7	3	3	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	2
Totals ...	303	16	7	18	12	18	86	32	23	33	17	36	5	36	35	17	29	109	38	124	...	...	...	...	50

Isolation Hospital:—Smethwick and Oldbury Con-Joint Hospital, Holly Lane, Smethwick.

Isolation Hospital:—South Staffordshire Joint Small-Pox Hospital, Moxley.

Sanatoria receiving patients:—Knightwick and Hayley-Green, Worcestershire.

TABLE III.—*Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1938.*

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or outside the District.								
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
All causes { Certified ... { Uncertified }	474 ...	51 .	4 ...	5 ...	15 ...	21 ...	55 ...	120 ...	203 ...
1. Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2. Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3. Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4. Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Diphtheria ...	5	...	1	2	2	...	...	...	...
6. Influenza ...	11	...	...	...	...	...	5	4	2
7. Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
8. Cerebro-Spinal Fever...	2	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
9. Respiratory Tuberculosis ..	30	...	...	...	...	9	11	8	2
10. Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	6	1	...	...	...	1	1	3	...
11. Syphilis ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
12. Gen. Par. of Insane, Tabes Dorsalis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13. Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	53	...	...	...	...	1	6	24	22
14. Diabetes ...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6
15. Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	24	...	...	...	...	1	...	7	16
16. Heart Disease ...	103	...	1	...	1	3	5	25	68
17. Aneurysm ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
18. Other Circulatory Diseases ...	20	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	13
19. Bronchitis ...	21	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	15
20. Pneumonia (all forms) ...	43	5	2	...	2	...	9	13	12
21. Other Respiratory Diseases .	6	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	1
22. Peptic Ulcer ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
23. Diarrhœa, etc., (under 2 years)	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24. Appendicitis ...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
25. Cirrhosis of Liver ...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
26. Other Diseases of Liver, etc. ...	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...
27. Other Digestive Diseases ...	11	3	...	...	...	1	1	3	3
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	6	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	2
29. Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30. Other Puerperal Causes ...	3	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...
31. Congenital Debility Premature Birth, Malformations, etc ...	30	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
32. Senility ...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	19
33. Suicide ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1
34. Other Violence... ..	16	2	...	1	1	1	6	1	4
35. Other Defined Diseases ...	34	2	...	1	5	1	3	8	14
36. Causes Ill-defined or Un-known	1	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1
Totals ...	474	51	4	5	15	21	55	120	203

TABLE III Contd.—*Causes of Death in Ward Order during the year 1938.*

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths of "Residents" whether occurring within or outside the District.							
	All Wards	Central	Broadwell	Brandhall	Rounds Green	Langley	Warley	Bristnall
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
All causes { Certified ...	474	77	80	47	67	80	71	52
{ Uncertified ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1. Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
2. Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
3. Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4. Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Diphtheria	5	..	I	I	2	I	...	...
6. Influenza	11	3	I	I	I	4	I	...
7. Encephalitis Lethargica	I	...	...	..	...	I	...	...
8. Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	...	I	...	...	I	...	...
9. Respiratory Tuberculosis	30	5	5	I	4	3	5	7
10. Other Tuberculous Diseases	6	...	I	...	I	2	I	I
11. Syphilis	I	..	...	...	...	I	...	...
12. General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13. Cancer, Malignant Disease	53	9	7	8	8	10	8	3
14. Diabetes	7	I	3	I	I	I	...	..
15. Cerebral Haemorrhage	24	5	5	2	2	2	4	4
16. Heart Disease	103	19	18	9	10	22	16	9
17. Aneurysm	I	...	...	..	...	...	I	...
18. Other Circulatory Diseases	20	4	5	2	2	3	2	2
19. Bronchitis	21	6	4	3	3	5	...	...
20. Pneumonia (all forms)	43	9	8	...	10	5	7	4
21. Other Respiratory Diseases	6	I	I	...	3	...	...	I
22. Peptic Ulcer	3	...	...	I	...	...	...	2
23. Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	5	...	...	I	...	I	2	I
24. Appendicitis	2	...	I	...	..	I	...	...
25. Cirrhosis of Liver	2	...	...	...	..	...	I	I
26. Other diseases of Liver, etc.	3	...	I	...	...	...	2	...
27. Other Digestive Diseases	11	...	I	3	I	4	I	I
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	6	...	I	...	...	2	I	2
29. Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30. Other Puerperal causes	3	...	I	I	I	...	...	...
31. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	30	3	2	6	5	3	7	4
32. Senility	20	5	I	I	5	3	I	4
33. Suicide	4	I	...	...	I	I	I	...
34. Other Violence	16	2	4	I	2	I	5	I
35. Other Defined Diseases	34	4	8	5	5	3	4	5
36. Causes ill-defined or Unknown	I	...	...	...	...	...	I	...
Totals ...	474	77	80	47	67	80	7	52

TABLE IV.—*Infant Mortality during the Year 1938.*
Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year
of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes	{ Certified	...	...	27	2	4	2	35	3	3	6	4	51
	{ Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	1	5
Tubercular Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth	...	...	...	17	2	...	1	20	...	...	...	...	20
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Atelectasis	...	...	...	4	...	1	...	5	...	...	...	...	5
Injury at Birth	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (<i>not Tubercular</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	5
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Pemphigus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	2	...	4
Totals	...	...	...	27	2	4	2	35	3	3	6	4	51

TABLE V.

Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1938.

	RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.							RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS		
	Live Births	Still-births	All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under Two years)	Total Deaths under One Year
England and Wales	15.1	0.60	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.11	5.5	53
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London) ...	15.0	0.65	11.7	0.00	...	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.10	7.8	57
148 Smaller Towns (estimated Population 25,000 to 50,000, Census, 1931)	15.4	0.60	11.0	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.11	3.6	51
London Administrative County	13.4	0.48	11.4	0.00	...	0.06	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.06	13.1	57
Oldbury	19.8	0.79	10.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.24	5.5	56

	Puerperal Sepsis.	Others.	Total.
The maternal mortality rates for England and Wales are (per 1000 live births)	...	2.19	3.08
(per 1000 total births)	...	2.11	2.97
The maternal mortality rates for Oldbury are	3.31	3.31
(per 1000 live births)	...	3.19	3.19
(per 1000 total births)	...		

TABLE VI.—VITAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

Year.	Birth-rate per 1000 living.	Death-rate per 1000 living.	Rates per 1000 Births.		Rates per 1000 Population.		Enteric Fever cases notified.
			Total Deaths under 1 year.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	
1919	20.7 (18.5)	13.2 (13.8)	102 (89)	12.7	0.02	0.00	—
1920	28.0 (25.4)	11.7 (12.4)	83 (80)	6.6	0.21	0.00	—
1921	26.4 (22.4)	11.5 (12.1)	101 (83)	21.2	0.00	0.00	—
1922	24.8 (20.6)	11.6 (12.9)	69 (77)	8.4	0.02	0.00	1
1923	23.5 (19.7)	11.1 (11.6)	78 (69)	10.9	0.02	0.00	—
1924	21.9 (18.8)	9.5 (12.2)	68 (75)	2.2 (7.3)	0.02	0.00	—
1925	22.1 (18.3)	10.8 (12.2)	70 (75)	13.0 (8.4)	0.00	0.00	—
1926	20.4 (17.8)	9.7 (11.6)	55.8 (70)	11.3	0.02	0.00	—
1927	19.4 (16.7)	11.2 (12.3)	88.4 (69)	7.1 (7.5)	0.08	0.00	3
1928	21.7 (16.7)	11.1 (11.77)	67.8 (65)	7.5 (7.0)	0.69	0.00	—
1929	21.7 (16.3)	12.6 (13.4)	99.7 (74)	13.4 (8.1)	0.00	0.00	2
1930	21.5 (16.3)	10.8 (11.4)	43.9 (60)	6.6 (6.0)	0.05	0.00	1
1931	20.8 (15.8)	11.1 (12.3)	68.6 (66)	10.6 (6.0)	0.03	0.00	—
1932	19.4 (15.3)	10.1 (12.0)	91.5 (65)	20.5 (6.6)	0.00	0.00	—
1933	17.4 (14.4)	10.5 (12.3)	89.7 (64)	13.2 (7.1)	0.10	0.00	—
1934	19.2 (14.8)	10.4 (11.8)	64.0 (59)	11.4 (5.5)	0.07	0.00	—
1935	18.9 (14.7)	9.7 (11.7)	65.6 (57)	11.3 (5.7)	0.02	0.00	—
1936	19.6 (14.8)	10.2 (12.1)	55.6 (59)	10.6 (5.9)	0.00	0.00	—
1937	18.9 (14.9)	11.0 (12.4)	65.3 (58)	3.5 (5.8)	0.02	0.00	1
1938	19.8 (15.1)	10.4 (11.6)	56.4 (53)	5.5 (5.5)	0.00	0.00	—

The figures in brackets are for England and Wales.

TABLE VII.—TUBERCULOSIS,—New Cases and Mortality, 1938.

AGE DISTRIBUTION.												WARD DISTRIBUTION.									
NEW CASES.	Respiratory ...	{ Males ... Females... }	All Ages	Under 1 year.	1—5 years	5—15 years.	15—25 years	25—35 years.	35—45 years	45—55 years.	55—65 years.	65 and over.	Central.	Broadwell.	Brandhall.	Rounds Green.	Langley.	Warley.	Brissall.		
			Respiratory ...	{ Males ... Females... }	...	Males ... Females...	...	Males ... Females...	...	Males ... Females...	...	Males ... Females...	...	Males ... Females...	...	Males ... Females...	...	Males ... Females...	...	Males ... Females...	...
	TOTALS	...	59	1	2	5	19	13	7	6	5	1	10	4	4	2	10	14	15		
DEATHS.	Respiratory ...	{ Males ... Females... }	18	...	...	...	4	3	1	4	4	2	2	4	1	3	1	3	4
			12	...	...	5	3	4	...	...	...	1	2	2	...	...	...	...	3
	Non-Respiratory	{ Males ... Females . }	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
			4	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	...
	TOTALS	...	36	1	...	...	10	7	5	7	4	2	5	6	1	5	5	6	8

Weekly Notifications of Infectious Diseases, 1938.

No.	1938 Weeks ending	Small Pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Cerebro- Spinal Fever	Acute Poliomyelitis.	Acute Polio- encephalitis.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Dysentery.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Fever.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Malaria.	Trench Fever.	Food Poisoning	Pulmonary T.B.	Non-Pulmon- ary T.B.	Totals
1	Jan. 8	..	5	4	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	11
2	" 15	..	1	5	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3	" 22	..	1	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
4	" 29	..	..	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	Feb. 5	..	2	3	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	12
6	" 12	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
7	" 19	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8	" 26	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
9	Mar. 5	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
10	" 12	..	2	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1	11
11	" 19	..	..	4	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	11
12	" 26	..	..	3	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	12
13	Apl. 2	..	..	1	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..
14	" 9	..	1	1	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15	" 16	..	1	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
16	" 23	..	1	1	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	11
17	" 30	..	..	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..
18	May 7	..	1	3	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
19	" 14	..	1	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
20	" 21	..	1	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
21	" 28	..	3	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
22	June 4	..	1	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
23	" 11	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..
24	" 18	..	3	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	11
25	" 25	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
26	July 2	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
27	" 9	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
28	" 16	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
29	" 23	..	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
30	" 30	..	2	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	11
31	Aug. 6	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
32	" 13	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
33	" 20	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
34	" 27	..	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
35	Sep. 3	..	1	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
36	" 10	..	4	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
37	" 17	..	3	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
38	" 24	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
39	Oct. 1	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
40	" 8	..	2	1	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
41	" 15	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
42	" 22	..	2	1	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	11
43	" 29	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
44	Nov. 5	..	2	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
45	" 12	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
46	" 19	..	5	3	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
47	" 26	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
48	Dec. 3	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
49	" 10	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
50	" 17	..	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
51	" 24	..	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
52	" 31	..	3	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals		..	85	63	..	116	3	..	..	..	..	8	16	..	12	..	..	..	47	12	36

BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

Annual Report

OF THE

School Medical Officer

TO THE

Oldbury Education Authority

FOR THE YEAR, 1938.

C. W. SHARPLEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., (Oxon)

School Medical Officer.

BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

MEMBERS OF THE OLDBURY EDUCATION COMMITTEE, NOVEMBER, 1937 to OCTOBER, 1938.

ALDERMAN B. T. ROBBINS, J.P., *Chairman*.

THE MAYOR (ALDERMAN R. M. HADLEY, J.P., C.C.), *ex-officio*.

ALDERMEN:

S. T. MELSOM, C.C.	MRS. L. A. SMITH.
T. POLLOCK.	F. WALLACE.
H. H. ROBBINS.	

COUNCILLORS:

C. T. BARLOW.	H. A. LACON, J.P.
J. CLARKE.	J. E. LARKAM.
R. DAVIS.	A. E. OLDEN.
J. F. GOODE.	G. H. PRICE, C.C.
H. GOULD.	G. W. ROSE, J.P.
G. H. GRIFFITHS.	W. J. SHEWARD.
H. H. HAIGH.	W. VICKERS.
E. HARRIS.	W. WARWICK.
J. W. HOLLAND.	

Co-opted Members:

MRS. V. E. ROSE, MR. A. E. CHURCH.

MEMBERS OF THE CHILDREN'S CARE SUB-COMMITTEE.

ALDERMAN MRS. L. A. SMITH, *Chairman*.

THE MAYOR (ALDERMAN R. M. HADLEY, J.P., C.C.), *ex-officio*.

ALDERMEN:

B. T. ROBBINS, J.P.
S. T. MELSOM, C.C.
F. WALLACE.

COUNCILLORS:

R. DAVIS.	G. H. PRICE, C.C.
J. F. GOODE.	W. J. SHEWARD.
H. GOULD.	W. VICKERS.
J. W. HOLLAND.	W. WARWICK.
A. E. OLDEN.	

Co-opted Members:

MRS. V. E. ROSE, MR. A. E. CHURCH.

STAFF.

School Medical Officer:

C. W. SHARPLEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Oxon).

Assistant School Medical Officer:

ANNA M. ROBERTSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Ophthalmic Surgeon:

C. RUDD, M.B., F.R.F.P.S., D.O.M.S., R.C.P.S.

Dental Surgeon:

W. CROFTS ARKLE, L.D.S., R.F.P.S., Glas.

School Nurses:

Miss H. STANSFIELD

Miss N. G. KAY (resigned 23-4-38)

Miss E. STOKES (resigned 19-3-38)

Miss D. H. MATTHEWS

Miss A. M. O'CALLAGHAN (resigned 31-10-38)

Miss M. E. ASPINALL (commenced 1-7-38)

Miss M. L. GIBSON (commenced 1-7-38).

Miss M. F. R. ELY (commenced 5-12-38)

Dental Attendant:

Miss G. NEWTON (resigned 10-1-38)

Miss A. E. SMITH (commenced 24-1-38)

Chief Clerk:

S. ASTLEY.

Clerks:

Miss N. B. RICKETTS

Miss M. FIELD

Miss M. DODD (resigned 13-8-38).

Miss L. HADLEY (commenced 8-8-38)

Miss I. M. POYNTON (resigned 9-4-38)

Miss S. M. WATERHOUSE

(commenced 20-4-38)

BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In presenting my annual report on the School Medical Service for 1938 may I again tender my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Children's Care Sub-Committee for their assistance.

At the request of the General Purposes Committee the Board of Education sent Dr. A. H. Gale to enquire into the administration of the Service, in conjunction with Dr. D. M. Taylor and Miss Alden of the Ministry of Health. The fact that my reports have, from time to time, drawn attention to practically every defect that they mentioned and the remedy that they have suggested together with a very satisfactory appreciation of the work of members of my Staff, will, I hope, give you more confidence in supporting my recommendations in the future, and cannot fail to convince you of the difficulties under which the Service has been run in the past.

Air Raid Precautions call for increasing time from members of the Staff, unfortunately always in their already limited spare time, but it has always been cheerfully given.

I am grateful to the Education Officer and his Staff for their continued help, also for the loyal and ungrudging support from the members of my Staff.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. W. SHARPLEY,

School Medical Officer.

Health Department,
Municipal Buildings,
Oldbury.

July, 1939.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,300 acres
Population (Estimated Mid-year, 1938)	...	...	...	...	...	...	45,450
School Population (31st December, 1938)	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,914
Cost of School Medical Service for year ending 31st							
March, 1938	...	...	...	...	...	...	£3,085
Parents' contributions	...	...	...	...	...	...	£47
Product of Penny Rate (1937-38)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£688
Cost of Education Services after taking into consideration							
Government Grant—rate in the £	...	...	...	...	...	...	4/5.48d.
Cost of School Medical Service—rate in the £	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.48d.

PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN OLDBURY.

School.	Department.	Accommo- dation	No. on Roll. 31/12/38.
Albright Senior Council	Boys	480	415
Albright Senior Council	Girls	480	432
Bristnall Hall Senior Council	Boys	480	333
Bristnall Hall Senior Council	Girls	480	312
St. Michael's C. of E. Senior	Mixed	320	331
Castle Road Junior Council	Mixed & Infants	516	514
Moat Farm Junior Council	Boys	384	288
Moat Farm Junior Council	Girls	384	305
Moat Farm Council	Infants	350	340
Rood End Junior Council	Mixed	520	496
Rood End Council	Infants	290	236
Rounds Green Junior Council	Mixed	480	373
Rounds Green Council	Infants	330	167
Titford Road Junior Council	Boys	330	279
Titford Road Junior Council	Girls	330	285
Titford Road Council	Infants	330	268
Warley Council	Infants	389	297
Bleakhouse Junior Council	Mixed	400	362
Church of England Junior	Mixed	243	243
Church of England Junior	Infants	182	123
Good Shepherd C. of E. Junior	Mixed & Infants	182	123
St. Francis Xavier's R.C.	Mixed & Infants	210	189
St. Hubert's R.C.	Mixed & Infants	192	203

STAFF.

The staff of the Department is set out fully on Page iii.

Miss E. Stokes, Miss N. G. Kay and Miss A. M. O'Callaghan, Health Visitor-School Nurses, resigned in March, April and October respectively, and the vacancies were filled by the appointment of Miss M. E. Aspinall and Miss M. L. Gibson in July and by Miss M. F. R. Ely in December.

CO-ORDINATION.

The posts of Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer are combined and as such the services are under the control of one officer. In addition the posts of Assistant Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer, Dentist, and Health Visitor-School Nurses are combined for the purposes of Maternity and Child Welfare and the School Medical Service, but the increasing demands made by the Health Department is an ever increasing drain on the time required to be devoted to the School Medical Service.

The Staff of the Education Department have, as in the past, been most helpful in all matters concerning the School Medical Service and we are most grateful to them.

SCHOOL HYGIENE.

There is a decrease in overcrowding in the schools; two schools having a greater number of pupils on the rolls than the accommodation available as compared with six schools in 1937. These schools are situated in the Southern part of the district, which accommodates most of the large housing estates belonging to both the Oldbury and Smethwick Corporations.

The remarks in my previous report with regard to the Church of England Schools still apply.

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

The Routine Medical Inspections for the year were completed. A summary of these inspections will be found in Table 1 on page xix.

FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

The findings of medical inspections have been summarised and will be found in Table II on page xx. Two thousand, seven hundred and thirty-nine children have been examined at routine medical inspections as compared with two thousand, four hundred and sixty-eight in 1937, and a correspondingly increased number have been referred for treatment and observation. There has been an increase in the number of special inspections.

Malnutrition.

Of the 2,739 children examined at Routine Medical Inspections only one child was found to be in category " D " (Bad).

141			classified as slightly sub-normal.
1549	,,	,,	normal.
1048	,,	,,	excellent.

A satisfactory result but a higher standard could be, and should be, obtained if a larger quantity and more general advantage was taken of supplies of milk obtainable in the Schools.

A classification of the nutrition of the children inspected during the year will be found in Table II B on page xxi.

While I have no statistical information available I have noticed a larger number of poorly nourished children than in the previous year.

Minor Ailments and Diseases of Skin (Group I).

A summary of the findings at the Minor Ailments Clinics will be found in Table IV on page xxiv.

Minor Ailment Clinics are held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon each Monday at Warley, Tuesday at Oldbury and Saturday at Langley, at which the Assistant School Medical Officer together with a School Nurse and a Clerk attend. Further sessions from 9 a.m. to 12 noon are held at Langley on Wednesday, Warley on Thursday and Oldbury on Friday, at which only a School Nurse is in attendance.

The total attendances at the Minor Ailments Clinics during the year was 5,599 as compared with 7,948 in 1937. The number of defects treated, or under treatment during the year was 1,521 as compared with 1,750 in 1937.

Defective Vision and Squint (Group II).

A summary of defects will be found in Table IV on page xxiv.

The Ophthalmic Specialist attends two Ophthalmic Clinics per month at Oldbury and one clinic per month at Warley. Provisional arrangements have been made with the Eye Hospital, Birmingham, for fusion training for children suffering from squint recommended by Mr. Rudd. During 1938 four such cases were sent to the Eye Hospital.

I am finding it difficult to persuade parents to take their children to the Eye Hospital by reason of the expense and the time involved in attending. Mothers find it quite impossible to leave their homes for the necessary period.

Nose and Throat Defects (Group III).

Seventy cases of Tonsils, Adenoids, or Tonsils and Adenoids were referred from the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic for treatment in hospital.

With a few exceptions arrangements are made with Hallam Hospital to take a certain number of cases each week and these are admitted on Sunday and seen by the Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist on Monday and treatment given. A few cases make their own arrangements with the Children's Hospital, Birmingham. Cases are seen after the operation and excluded for one week.

No case is sent in without a period of three months observation either under the School Medical Officer or their own medical attendant.

The results have been very satisfactory.

Ear cases are treated by the School Medical Officer at the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic on Friday afternoon each week. Fourteen cases of Otorrhœa attended, two cases being sent to hospital, two cases were cured, four cases improved and the remainder are under observation and treatment. Ten children were treated for deafness, two being sent to hospital, two were cured, two have improved after treatment, and the remainder were under observation or having treatment at the end of the year.

Eleven other cases suffering from minor ear defects were treated with satisfactory results.

There must, of course, be many more cases than these among our 6,914 school children suffering from partial deafness for whom nothing is being done and I would urge the Committee to seriously consider the appointment of an Aural Specialist to take over the work of this Clinic and also make a Routine Examination of the hearing of the Oldbury children.

Orthopædic and Postural Defects.

Twenty-two children attended the Royal Cripples Hospital for treatment during the year at the expense of the Education Committee.

Two children received orthopædic treatment through the Hospital Contributory Scheme either at the Royal Cripples Hospital or the Children's Hospital with satisfactory results.

Uncleanliness.

There has been a slight decrease in the number of verminous children. There were 60 this year against 63 in 1937. The number of children found to have nits has slightly increased. No Proceedings were taken under the School Attendance Bye-Laws or the Education Act, 1921.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE.

The following report has been submitted by the Dental Surgeon:—

This year's Annual Report of the School Dental Service shows considerable improvement from that of previous years, particularly in the number of children inspected (1936—4,511: 1937—4,588: 1938—6,325). This result was achieved by slight alterations in the time-table of the service, thereby obtaining better use of the time available. The number of attendances made by children for treatment also shows an increase, but the continued lack of appreciation by the parents of conservative treatment for their children's teeth is much to be regretted, as it is the children who are eventually made to suffer, but I am afraid that it is extremely difficult to make the parents "see the folly of their ways." One could appreciate their attitude if they or their children had suffered whilst having teeth filled, but almost without exception, they have never had a filling inserted. However, by refusing to treat these mass "refusals," which arise in certain schools in the Borough, when they eventually arrive at the Clinic for emergency treatment, it is hoped that the number of acceptances for conservative treatment will be considerably improved.

In the past, no improvement in the amount of conservative treatment carried out was possible as long as they could have the offending tooth extracted when it eventually became the cause of severe pain, but now that the above system has been introduced, it is hoped that an improvement in the position will eventually result.

Of course, propaganda work, in the form of informal talks, lectures, demonstrations, etc., would be extremely helpful, but I am afraid that this is impossible until such time as we have more than one School Dentist in the Borough, as my time is fully occupied attempting to cope with the present demand for treatment, without increasing same, which would be the inevitable result of such propaganda.

Miss A. Smith, Dental Attendant, commenced her duties on 24th January, 1938, on the resignation of Miss G. Newton, and with her previous experience of dentistry and her method of handling the children, she has proved herself to be an invaluable assistant, for which I am extremely thankful.

I also take this opportunity of thanking Dr. Sharpley, the Staff of the Health Department, and the Committee for their unfailing co-operation, and also the Head Teachers of the Schools visited in the course of our Routine Inspections.

FOLLOWING-UP.

The School Nurses made 724 visits to the homes of children suffering from defects discovered at the routine medical inspections, or cases of infectious disease reported by the head teacher.

New cases of Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases are reported daily by the Headteachers and School Attendance Officers.

JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

The School Medical Officer examined, and reported on, 19 Juvenile offenders during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

In the case of diphtheria and scarlet fever, on receipt of a notification of a case all contacts are examined at school and are kept under observation by the Staff. Practically all cases of diphtheria are removed to hospital, whilst the majority of scarlet fevers are nursed at home, serum being provided by the Health Department for the treatment of these cases. If in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health it is necessary, the schools are visited by him.

The incidence of infectious disease has not shown any material change since the introduction of the new regulations with regard to the exclusion of contacts. There have been no cases in which infection could be traced to missed contacts in the schools. Consequently there has been a greater attendance at school without any ill effect and on the whole the scheme is very satisfactory.

Diphtheria.

There were 37 cases, mainly in the Warley area, and there were two deaths among the school children as compared with 45 cases and four deaths in 1937.

Up to the end of 1938, 1,290 children out of a school population of 6,914 have been immunised and have had no complications of any sort. This number is so small as to be valueless as a preventive measure.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 54 cases amongst the school population as compared with 42 in 1937. The cases continue to be of a mild type.

Non-notifiable infectious diseases have been a serious cause of non-attendance at school.

REGULATIONS WITH REGARD TO INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Patients on release from isolation, that is from home or hospital, return to school immediately.

There is no exclusion from school of contacts of the following infectious diseases:—Scarlet fever, diphtheria, German measles, whooping cough, mumps, measles, chicken-pox, but supervision of these contacts in school, during the incubation period of the respective infectious disease, is left to the discretion of the School Medical Officer.

Books are not disinfected after any infectious disease.

OPEN-AIR SCHOOL.

Twenty places, 10 for boys and 10 for girls, were reserved for nine months at the Open-Air School, Malvern, for Oldbury cases.

Forty-six children were sent during the year and upon their return they showed a distinct improvement. The average weight increase of the boys was 9.75lbs. and the girls 8.80lbs.

EDGMOND HALL CAMP SCHOOL.

283 boys and 299 girls were medically examined before admission to the Edgmond Hall Camp School.

The Albright Senior School again organised a successful school camp during the Whitsuntide holidays, whilst most of the other schools organised one-day school journeys.

PROVISION OF MEALS

No meals other than milk meals were supplied during the year.

Free supplies of milk were given to children referred to the Education Officer by teachers and confirmed by the School Medical Officer, provided the family income was within the Council's scale.

One hundred such children were referred to this Department during the year, and of this number 18 were found to be above the normal standard of height and weight. Of the 82 children recommended for milk 73 were given one-third of a pint and 9 were given two-thirds of a pint daily.

A systematic survey of all children should be carried out annually and all children having free milk should be re-examined every six months to ensure that conditions for which extra milk was given have improved.

CO-OPERATION.

The parents have during the past years shown an increasing interest in their children and this has resulted in a keen desire to avail themselves of the curative treatment and advice available. I can only hope that the same willing co-operation will shortly extend to the preventive side of medicine.

The teachers as in the past have been most anxious to further any suggestions for the good of the children in spite of the ever increasing burden placed on them by rules and regulations.

The School Attendance Officers also have been very helpful in referring absentees without certificates to the School Medical Officer.

The N.S.P.C.C. is and always has been officially and unofficially a very present help in time of trouble. The presence in various parts of the district of strong ladies' committees shows a growing appreciation of the Society's work.

PHYSICAL TRAINING.

The following report has been submitted by the Physical Training Organisers:—

In view of the fact that refresher courses for teachers were held in 1936 and 1937, no further courses were undertaken during the year 1938. Our visits to schools have therefore been concerned with the application and extension of the work taken at the 1936 and 1937 refresher courses.

A continued improvement in the standard of Physical Training in schools has been maintained, though it would seem that in some cases, further progress cannot be achieved until the children are properly dressed for exercise. Where children have formed the habit of changing for the Physical Training lesson, teachers and head teachers concerned are to be congratulated for their efforts in overcoming the many difficulties.

During Health Week, 1938, a Physical Training demonstration was held at the Oldbury Swimming Baths. The programme included Physical Training and Gymnastics by classes of girls and boys from the Senior Departments, Scandinavian and English Folk Dancing. It was evident that the large audience, which included members of the Education Committee, fully appreciated the high standard of work shown. The dress adopted by the various classes did show to parents the type of outfit which is desirable for their children in schools, and we are sure that the whole demonstration was an excellent fillip to Physical Training in the area.

NEW GYMNASIA.

Two new gymnasia were opened during the year, one at the Bristnall Hall Senior School and the second at St. Michael's Church of England School. Teachers who have attended Three Months' Courses, are in charge of the Physical Training and Gymnastics at these schools.

There is no doubt that the gymnasium has brought about—

- (a) An increased enjoyment of the Physical Training lesson by the children;
- (b) The desire to change into proper dress for exercising;
- (c) A general improvement in the cleanliness of the children.

The shower baths have been used with enjoyment by the majority of the children, though in most classes there are usually one or two children not taking a shower. In many cases it is

found that the child is not able to do so because he or she could not bring a towel from home. It would be a great help to the teachers if a supply of towels could be kept for such children, the towels to be made available for definite cases of poverty.

In some cases, where children are not able to have a bath at home, soap and brushes have been provided in the showers and the children have been encouraged to take extra showers during the mid-day interval and after school. There is a very marked difference in the cleanliness of the children at the end of one term and at the beginning of the next, and there is no doubt that in many instances, facilities at home do not permit the maintenance of the desired standard of cleanliness.

At present, children have to take their wet towels back to the classroom after showering, as there is no equipment for the drying and storing of towels at the two schools mentioned above. It is hoped that some attention will be given to this problem of towel storage in any new gymnasium to be opened in the future. The same observation applies to the storage of Physical Training dress, the children having to take their kit to and from school each day.

THREE MONTHS' COURSES.

In accordance with the Board of Education recommendation that all teachers using full gymnastic equipment in schools, should attend a Three Months' Course in the use of such apparatus, one woman and three men teachers have undergone this extra period of training during the year. We hope that the Committee will continue to grant leave of absence to teachers selected for these courses. It may also be noted that teachers who have this additional training, are qualified to take Keep Fit and other recreational classes, of which several have been organised for men and women in the Borough.

APPARATUS.

Two years ago, complete sets of apparatus were supplied to all departments. Renewal of much of this apparatus is now very essential, and we hope that the supplying of Physical Training apparatus on requisition, will have the favourable consideration of the Committee.

The Board of Education has recommended that girls should be introduced to Hockey and Shinty. It will be necessary to supply the required apparatus for these games if the recommendation is to be followed.

The Bristnall Hall gymnasium is used by both Girls' and Boys' Departments. To make for the proper working of a Physical Training scheme in these departments, an additional set of portable apparatus is required. This will also apply to the Albright Senior Girls' and Boys' Departments when the new gymnasium is opened. In this case we would suggest that the gymnasium is fully equipped with new apparatus, and that the portable apparatus at present in use, should remain in the respective departments.

SWIMMING.

Considerable interest in Swimming is evident in the Oldbury Schools, and the progress during the season has been very satisfactory.

The following suggestions relative to the organisation of swimming, are put forward for consideration:—

(1) That the Swimming Gala be held at the end of the Summer Term, so that those who are leaving at the end of the school year, shall have the opportunity to take part.

(2) That a special Life Saving Class be formed for those who have attained the required standard, e.g., the Yellow Stripe in the series of awards. The Baths Superintendent might be willing to undertake the instruction of such a class.

(3) That the cubicles be made available for changing whenever possible. The present changing rooms are very limited and it would help considerably if the cubicles could be used by alternate classes.

PLAYING FIELDS.

A special report with regard to the increased use of Playing Fields was made in November, 1938.

POSTURAL DEFECTS.

Many cases of defects, e.g., flat foot, knock knees, etc., come to our notice during school visits. It seems very desirable that this problem of postural defects should be tackled as soon as possible. To this end, we would recommend that the services of a qualified remedial gymnast should be obtained.

(Signed) E. F. S. MACPHERSON.

A. CHARLES.

March, 1939.

BLIND, DEAF, DEFECTIVE AND EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.

These children are found at Routine Medical Inspections, Clinics, and as a result of reports received from Head Teachers and School Attendance Officers. They are referred to me and passed on to the appropriate officer for examination.

There are 5 blind children at present at the Blind Institution. Two children attend the school for partially blind under the Birmingham Education Authority.

Three deaf children are attending the Deaf Institution at Birmingham.

One epileptic boy is at no school or institution, due to the possibility of further operative treatment in the near future. This case followed a motor accident some years ago and several attempts have been made to relieve the source of irritation, with partial success only.

116 delicate children attended Public Elementary Schools. 46 children were sent during the year to the Open Air School at Malvern for periods varying from three to six months. The results have been very satisfactory but many of the children lose ground on returning home. We are finding it increasingly difficult to get sufficient children to fill the vacancies, especially during the first and second terms.

NURSERY CLASSES.

Children attending the Nursery Classes are at present selected by the Head Teachers and are medically examined on the same lines as the senior children.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AMONG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN.

1.—Notifiable Diseases:—

Scarlet Fever	...	..	...	54
Diphtheria	...	...	...	37
Pneumonia	..	..	...	25
Tuberculosis:—				
Pulmonary	...	...	...	Nil
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	5

2.—Non-Notifiable Diseases:—

Chicken Pox	...	...	...	370
Measles	...	...	...	144
Mumps	...	...	...	69
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	95
Rubella (German Measles)	...	...	...	3

SCHOOL NURSING, ETC.

1.—Visits to Schools:—

(1) Routine Medical Inspections	...	116
(2) Routine Dental Inspections	...	71
(3) Cleanliness Inspections:—		
Visits to Schools	... ..	68
Children inspected	... ..	22,903

2.—Visits to Homes:—

In connection with defects, and infectious diseases	724
-----------------------------------------------------	--------	-----

SCHOOL CLINIC.

1.—Cases treated at the Minor Ailments Clinics:—

Skin Diseases:—

Scabies	... ..	14
Septic cuts, abrasions, etc.	...	470
Burns and scalds, contusions, etc.	...	61
Ringworm (body)	... ..	3
,, (scalp)	... ..	—
Impetigo, herpes, etc.	... ..	334
Other skin	... ..	34
Diseases of the ear	... ..	127
External diseases of the eye	... ..	145
Miscellaneous	... ..	598

2.—Total attendances made by children:—

Minor Ailments Clinic	... ..	5599
Aural Clinic	... ..	258
Eye (Refraction Clinic)	227
Inspection Clinic	2677
Dental Clinic	3037

Total	...	11,798
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3.—Medical Certificates issued:—

Employment purposes	78
Exclusion	1013

SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS OF THE OPHTHALMIC SURGEON.

January to December, 1938.

Errors of Refraction:—

Defects found:—

Simple Hypermetropia	17
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Hypermetropic Astigmatism—

Simple	5
Compound	54
Simple Myopia	14

Myopic Astigmatism—

Simple	...	...	...	4
Compound	...	...	...	15
Mixed Astigmatism	...	..	...	12

Squint:—

Convergent	...	...	...	70
Divergent	...	...	...	2

Inflammatory conditions, etc.:—

Blepharitis	...	...	...	2
Conjunctivitis	...	...	...	2
Phlyctenular Disease	...	...	...	2
Dislocated Lenses	...	...	...	4
Corneal Ulcer	...	...	...	4
Congenital Cataract	...	...	...	4
Optic Atrophy	...	...	...	2
Traumatic Cataract	...	...	...	1
Old Injury	...	...	...	1
Ptosis (Traumatic)	...	...	...	1
Naevus of Conjunctivia	..	...	...	1
Paralysis of Left Sup Oblique	1
No treatment required	27
Re-examinations	2

Total	...	246
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TABLE I.
RETURN OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections in the Prescribed Groups :

Entrants	...	...	...	(739)	983
Second Age Group	...	...	...	(830)	1031
Third Age Group	...	...	...	(899)	725
				Total ...	(2468) 2739
				Number of other Routine Inspections	... (Nil.) Nil.

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections	...	...	(1531)	2344
Number of Re-Inspections	...	...	(1894)	2112
				Totals ... (3425) 4456

C.—Number of Individual Children found at Routine Medical Inspection to Require Treatment (excluding Uncleanliness, Defects of Nutrition and Dental Diseases).

GROUP.	For Defective Vision (excluding squint)	For all other conditions recorded in Table IIa.	TOTAL
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Entrants ...	2	217	219
Second Age Group ...	48	209	246
Third Age Group ...	59	104	148
Total (Prescribed Groups) ...	109	530	613
Other Routine Inspections ...	—	—	—
Grand Total ...	109	530	613

TABLE ii.

**A.—Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection
in the Year ended 31st December, 1938.**

	DEFECT OR DISEASE.	ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.		SPECIALS	
		Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation.	Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation.
SKIN.	Ringworm—Scalp... ..	—	—	—	—
	„ Body... ..	—	—	—	—
	Scabies	1	—	14	—
	Impetigo	20	—	87	—
	Other diseases (non-Tuberculous) ..	40	5	42	—
EYE.	Blepharitis	13	—	22	—
	Conjunctivitis	6	—	36	—
	Keratitis	—	—	3	—
	Corneal Opacities	2	—	4	—
	Defective Vision (excluding Squint) ..	109	130	70	14
	Squint	23	7	22	—
	Other Conditions	7	4	14	—
EAR.	Defective Hearing	5	2	5	—
	Otitis Media	—	—	—	—
	Other Ear diseases	18	2	50	—
NOSE AND THROAT.	Chronic Tonsilitis only	40	184	20	12
	Adenoids only	5	23	4	—
	Chronic Tonsilitis and Adenoids ...	41	14	14	—
	Other Conditions	36	1	74	12
CERVICAL GLANDS.	Enlarged Cervical Glands (Non-Tuberculous)... ..	15	25	8	14
SPEECH.	Defective Speech	2	9	—	—
HEART & CIRCULATION.	Heart Disease—				
	Organic	8	42	1	—
	Functional	2	28	—	—
	Anæmia	62	2	31	—
LUNGS.	Bronchitis	37	2	11	—
	Other Non-Tuberculous Diseases ...	10	4	49	—
TUBERCULOSIS.	Pulmonary—				
	Definite	—	—	—	—
	Suspected	—	—	—	—
	Non-Pulmonary —				
	Glands	—	—	—	—
	Bones and Joints	—	—	—	—
	Skin	—	—	—	—
	Other Forms	—	—	—	—
NERVOUS SYSTEM.	Epilepsy... ..	—	—	—	—
	Chorea	1	—	6	1
	Other Conditions... ..	—	—	—	—
DEFORMITIES	Rickets... ..	2	5	—	—
	Spinal Curvature	—	—	—	—
	Other Forms	15	31	2	3
	Other Defects and Diseases (exclud- ing Uncleanliness and Dental Diseases)	176	37	437	126
	Total	696	557	1027	222

**B.—Classification of the Nutrition of Children
Inspected during the year in the Routine
Age-Groups.**

AGE GROUPS.	No. of Children Inspected.	A (Excellent).		B (Normal).		C (Slightly Sub-Normal).		D (Bad).	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants	983	325	33.05	621	63.17	37	3.76	—	—
Second Age-Group ...	1031	319	30.94	650	63.04	62	6.01	—	—
Third Age-Group ...	725	404	55.72	278	38.34	42	5.79	1	0.13
Other Routine Inspections ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	2739	1048	38.26	1549	56.55	141	5.14	1	0.03

Table iii.**RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN
THE AREA.****CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM MULTIPLE DEFECTS.**

Number of children suffering from any combination of the following defects:—

Epilepsy and Feeble-minded ... I at no school or institution

BLIND CHILDREN.

A blind child is a child who is too blind to be able to read the ordinary school books used by children.

At Certified Schools for the Blind.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
5	—	—	—	5

PARTIALLY SIGHTED CHILDREN.

At Certified Schools for the Blind.	At Certified Schools for the Partially Blind.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total
2	—	—	—	—	2

DEAF CHILDREN.

A deaf child is a child who is too deaf to be taught in a class of hearing children in an elementary school.

At Certified Schools for the Deaf.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
3	—	—	I	4

PARTIALLY DEAF CHILDREN.

At Certified Schools for the Deaf.	At Certified Schools for the Partially Deaf.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
—	—	3	—	—	3

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.**FEEBLE-MINDED CHILDREN.**

Mentally Defective children are children who, not being imbecile and not being merely dull or backward, are incapable by reason of mental defect of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary Public Elementary Schools but are not incapable by reason of that defect of receiving benefit from instruction in Special Schools for mentally defective children.

At Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total
—	8	—	I	9

EPILEPTIC CHILDREN.**CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM SEVERE EPILEPSY.**

In this part of the Table only those children should be included who are epileptic within the meaning of the Act, i.e., children who, not being idiots or imbeciles, are unfit by reason of severe epilepsy to attend the ordinary Public Elementary Schools.

At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
—	4	—	I	5

Table iii.—*continued***PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.**

Physically Defective children are children who, by reason of physical defect, are incapable of receiving proper benefit from the instruction in the ordinary Public Elementary Schools, but are not incapable by reason of that defect of receiving benefit from instruction in Special Schools for physically defective children.

A. TUBERCULOUS CHILDREN.

In this category should be placed only cases diagnosed as tuberculous and requiring treatment for tuberculosis at a sanatorium, a dispensary, or elsewhere.

I.—CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution:	Total.
—	17	—	1	18

II.—CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution:	Total.
3	23	—	3	29

B. DELICATE CHILDREN.

This Section should be confined to children (except those included in other groups) whose general health renders it desirable that they should be specially selected for admission to an Open Air School.

At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
49	116	—	1	166

C. CRIPPLED CHILDREN.

This Section should be confined to children (other than those diagnosed as tuberculous and in need of treatment for that disease) who are suffering from a degree of crippling sufficiently severe to interfere materially with a child's normal mode of life, i.e., children who generally speaking are unable to take part, in any complete sense, in physical exercises or games or such activities of the School curriculum as gardening or forms of handwork usually engaged in by other children.

At Certified Special Schools	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
—	7	2	3	12

D. CHILDREN WITH HEART DISEASE.

This Section should be confined to children whose defect is so severe as to necessitate the provision of educational facilities other than those of the Public Elementary School.

At Certified Special Schools.	At Public Elementary Schools.	At other Institutions.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
—	—	—	4	4

TABLE iv.

Return of Defects Treated during the Year ended 31st December, 1938.

TREATMENT TABLE.

GROUP I.—MINOR AILMENTS (excluding Uncleanliness).

Disease or Defect.	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
Skin—Ringworm-Scalp } X-Ray Treatm't	—	—	—
} Other	—	—	—
Ringworm-Body ...	1	—	1
Scabies 	11	4	15
Impetigo 	104	3	107
Other skin disease 	75	7	82
Minor Eye Defects (external and other) ...	68	12	80
Minor Ear Defects 	60	8	68
Miscellaneous (<i>e.g.</i> , minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)	1202	79	1281
Total	1521	113	1634

GROUP II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments.)

Defect or Disease.	No. of Defects dealt with			No. of Children for whom Spectacles were			
	Under the Authority's Scheme	Otherwise	Total	Prescribed		Obtained	
				Under the Authority's Scheme	Otherwise	Under the Authority's Scheme	Otherwise
Errors of Refraction (including Squint) ...	175	12	187	154	10	135	10
Other Defect or Disease of the Eye (excluding those recorded in Group I.) ...	—	—	—				
Total ...	175	12	187				

GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.
NUMBER OF DEFECTS.

RECEIVED OPERATIVE TREATMENT.												Received other forms of Treatment.	Total Number Treated
Under the Authority's Scheme—Clinic or Hospital.				By Private Practitioner or Hospital.				Total					
i.	ii.	iii.	iv.	i.	ii.	iii.	iv.	i.	ii.	iii.	iv.		
—	—	—	—	26	5	36	3	26	5	36	3	17	87

i. Tonsils only. ii. Adenoids only. iii. Tonsils and Adenoids. iv. Other defects of nose and throat.

Table iv.

Treatment of Defects of Children during 1938.

continued.

GROUP IV.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.

	Under the Authority's Scheme			Other wise			Total number treated
	Residential treatment with education	Residential treatment without education	Non-resid'tial treatment at an orthopaedic clinic	Residential treatment with education	Residential treatment without education	Non-resid'tial treatment at an orthopaedic clinic	
Number Treated	1	2	15	—	—	5	20

TABLE V.—DENTAL DEFECTS.

(1) Number of Children who were :—		(4) Attendances made by children for treatment (2806) 3037	
(i.) Inspected by the Dentist :		(5) Half-days devoted to :—	
Aged :		Inspection ... (41) 71	
Routine Age Groups	(4) 51	Total (3737) 5443	Treatment ... (349) 337
	(5) 418 (373)		Total (390) 408
	(6) 688 (456)		
	(7) 733 (560)		
	(8) 631 (531)		
	(9) 656 (462)		
	(10) 659 (426)		
	(11) 500 (388)		
	(12) 536 (212)		
	(13) 537 (310)		
(14) 34 (19)			
Specials (851) 1082			(6) Fillings :—
Grand Total ... (4588) 6525		Permanent teeth (966) 848	
(2) Found to require treatment ... (3122) 4818		Temporary teeth (34) 9	
(3) Actually treated (2473) 2729		Total (1000) 857	
		(7) Extractions :—	
		Permanent teeth (542) 741	
		Temporary teeth (3482) 4237	
		Total (4024) 4978	
		(8) Administration of general anaesthetics for extractions ... (10) 25	
		(9) Other operations :—	
		Permanent teeth (123) 56	
		Temporary teeth (4) 1	
		Total (127) 57	

TABLE VI.—UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

(i.)	Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
(ii.)	Total number of examinations of children in the schools by School Nurses	...	...	...	...	...	...	22,903
(iii.)	Number of individual children found unclean :—							
							60 Verminous :	1329 Nits
(iv.)	Number of individual children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(v.)	Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken:—							
(a)	Under the Education Act, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(b)	Under School Attendance Byelaws	...	...	..	..	..	..	Nil

FORM 307 M.

STATEMENT OF THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN NOTIFIED
DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1938, BY
THE LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY TO THE LOCAL
MENTAL DEFICIENCY AUTHORITY.

Total number of children notified Nil.

Analysis of the above Total.

DIAGNOSIS.					BOYS.	GIRLS.	
1.	(i) Children incapable of receiving benefit or further benefit from instruction in a Special School:						
	(a)	Idiots	...	...	...	—	—
	(b)	Imbeciles	...	...	...	—	—
	(c)	Others	...	...	...	—	—
	(ii) Children unable to be instructed in a Special School without detriment to the interests of other children:						
	(a)	Moral defectives	...	...	...	—	—
	(b)	Others	...	...	...	—	—
2.	Feeble-minded children notified on leaving a Special School on or before attaining the age of 16					...	...
3.	Feeble-minded children notified under Article 3, <i>i.e.</i> , “ special circumstances ” cases					...	...
4.	Children who in addition to being mentally defective were blind or deaf					...	...
Grand Total					...	...

Borough of Oldbury.

Annual Report

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

AND

Cleansing Superintendent

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1938.

BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

To His Worship The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Oldbury.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my sixteenth Annual Report on the sanitary services administered in the Borough during 1938.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The number of houses in the Borough at the end of the year which were served by water closets was 13,274 and 20 by privies, pails or earth closets. The conservative type of sanitary convenience serves outlying cottages and farmsteads which are situate outside the prescribed statutory distance from a public sewer for the purpose of enforcing conversion.

Table III. gives information as to improvements in, and additions to, sanitary accommodation.

HOUSING.

Tables II., III. and the Ministry of Health's form show the number of inspections made and improvements and demolitions effected.

The number of dwelling-houses inspected was 904, of which 297 were recorded under the Housing Regulations of 1925 and 1932.

The number of unfit houses demolished, closed or abolished by conversion of back-to-back houses was 171, particulars of which are set out in the Ministry of Health's table.

Seven Clearance Orders, involving 84 houses situate in the following areas, were confirmed by the Minister of Health on June 1st:—

Inkerman Street and Tabernacle Street.
Canal Street.
Canal Side West, Halesowen Street.
Birchfield Lane.
West Bromwich Street.

New houses erected in the Borough during the year numbered 759 as follows:—

Private Enterprise	...	...	428
Oldbury Corporation	...	...	214
Smethwick Corporation	...	...	117

There are approximately 300 unfit houses, included in the five years' slum clearance programme, yet to be dealt with, and I am conscious of numerous other houses, which, by reason of rapid deterioration during recent years, due to an insufficient standard of maintenance, must now be classified as unfit and not capable, at reasonable expense, of being made fit for human habitation.

The number of cases of overcrowding known to exist on the 31st December was 155, compared with 360 at the time of the Survey of 1935-6. Of the 205 cases relieved 45 families have been re-housed in municipal houses which have not been specifically erected for the purpose. It should be stated that of the 155 cases of overcrowding referred to no less than 110 represent families of 7 and over, each of which will require to be accommodated in houses containing at least four bedrooms, but as there are numerous cases of families of 10 to 14 persons the matter must be considered as one calling for immediate alleviation.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the year three houses which previously derived their water supply from wells, were supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. This change was brought about as the result of samples of water taken from the wells being certified as unsuitable for drinking. Two other houses which received their water supply from a spring which was also found to be contaminated, were connected up to this Company's service main. In consequence of these changes the whole of the premises in the Borough are now supplied with water for domestic purposes from the mains.

From information supplied by the Secretary of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company there were 728 additional houses supplied with water from their mains during the year and at the end of the year the total number of houses connected to the Company's mains was 13,222.

Seven samples of water from the mains were taken during the year and in each case the County Analyst and Bacteriologist certified that the water was of good quality and fit for drinking purposes.

Samples taken from the Borough's swimming baths revealed that the water was, chemically and bacteriologically, in good condition.

From Table III. it will be seen that 53 houses were provided with an internal water supply during the year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There is no river passing through the district. The several brook courses and canals are kept under observation and it has been found necessary to direct attention to contamination in two instances. The sewers of a neighbouring district were involved in one instance and acid waste from a factory was the cause in the other case, but the firm concerned have now installed a modern purification plant for treating their acid waste and this is now being discharged into the public sewer comparatively free from any harmful content.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There are now 20 houses in the Borough which are not connected to the public sewers, which is 6 less than the previous year.

Table III. shows that 68 new drains and intercepting chambers were provided to existing houses; 45 drains were relaid or repaired; 53 provided with efficient traps and 114 opened and cleansed from obstruction.

The Borough is adequately provided with sewers, and apart from a small area in the south-eastern part of the Borough which is drained through the sewers of neighbouring districts our own Disposal Works deals adequately and successfully with the whole of the sewage.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

The slaughter-houses, market and food shops were kept under strict inspection and observation during the year, 955 inspections being made. Also 306 inspections and revisits were made of dairies and cowsheds.

Inspections of animals slaughtered in the district are referred to in the accompanying table.

A summary of diseased and unwholesome foods condemned is given in Table VII.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations and the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, are regularly observed in the slaughter-houses and meat shops. Two of our registered slaughter-houses fall short of modern requirements and these are receiving the attention of the Department and every effort is being made to bring them up to byelaw standard which is essential in view of the coming into force on 1st October, 1939, of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, excluding -Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Inspected	215	79	34	1178	2690
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned...	...	...	...	...	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	...	11	...	5	10
Percentage of the number Inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ... ..	...	13·9 %	...	0·4%	0·3%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned...	...	1	...	...	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	...	3	...	...	55
Percentage of the number Inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	...	5 %	...	...	2 %

NOTE.—All animals known to have been slaughtered in the district since March 31st, 1938, have been inspected.

There were 15 bakehouses on the register at the end of the year. These and other factories, workplaces and shops wherein foods are prepared or sold have been kept under inspection.

MILK SUPPLY.

The number of registered dairy farms in the Borough is now only 8. The rapid housing development of the Warley and Quinton areas has resulted in the abolition of 49 farmsteads since 1921. The provisions of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Order of 1926 have generally been observed at the farms and dairies.

Registered dairies (excluding producers' premises) numbered 25 at the end of the year and the number of retail purveyors registered was 62, this number including producers and dairymen but not wholesalers. There are also 169 registered dealers of non-designated (bottled) milk whose premises are not required to be registered.

Nineteen samples of milk were submitted to the County Laboratories for bacteriological examination, five of which failed to comply with the appropriate tests.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

Table IX. gives the number of licences issued for the production, bottling and sale of designated milk which was 47, compared with 45 in the previous year.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

These include eight slaughter-houses (4 registered and 4 licensed), one knacker's yard, three manufacturers of fertilizers and feeding stuffs from organic matter, three fat melters and extractors, one tripe dressing establishment (other than slaughter-houses), one rag receiver and sorter, two refuse disposal tips and forty-two fish-frying establishments. These premises have been conducted comparatively free from nuisance or complaint throughout the year.

The number of premises on the register of ice-cream makers or sellers at the end of the year was 65.

CANAL BOATS.

During the year 23 registered canal boats were inspected, all of which were conforming to the Public Health Act and Canal Boats Regulations.

For the first time the Corporation became a Registration Authority and five boats were inspected and registered and certificates issued.

There was no case of infectious disease reported on any canal boat during the year.

Table V. gives a few brief statistics relating to these boats.

FACTORIES.

The Factories Act, 1937, came into force on 1st July, 1938. By this measure previous statutes are abolished and the distinction between a "factory" and a "workshop" no longer applies. The only distinction now operative is that where mechanical power is used as against non-mechanical factories. The Act provides for general requirements relating to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, lighting, drainage and sanitary accommodation and Local Authorities will be responsible for the provision of proper and sufficient sanitary conveniences to all factories and in respect of non-mechanical factories the enforcement of the provisions referred to previously.

A new register of all factories is being prepared and from Table VIII. will be seen the number of inspections and notices served during the year.

The number of factories in the district is 197 (mechanical 171, non-mechanical 26).

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Collection and Disposal of House and Trade Refuse.

Table I. gives statistics relating to this service for the financial year ended 31st March, 1938.

Tonnage costs referred to in the Table are based on 65% actual weighings compared with 91% in the previous year. The weighbridge is not conveniently situated as between the Langley, Warley and Rounds Green Areas and the disposal tip and the lower percentage of weighings compared with previous years has been allowed in order to prevent loss of time entailed in travelling to the weighbridge. Also it has to be recorded that for three years before the 11th October, 1937, the whole of the refuse collected was disposed of on the Dudley Road tip which was easily accessible to the weighbridge.

The net cost per ton (collection and disposal—including depreciation and loan charges) was 10s. 7d., compared with 10s. 5d. in the previous year. The equivalent cost per 1,000 population was £129 against £122 and the figure per 1,000 houses £454 against £436.

Transport engaged on this work consists of six Chelsea Type S. D. Freighters, five of seven cubic yards capacity each and one of ten cubic yards capacity. Five of these vehicles were in regular use and the other was kept in reserve for special use and as a replacement for other vehicles undergoing repairs and overhaul.

A weekly collection of house refuse was maintained throughout the year except for brief periods following holidays.

Each house in the district is served with a regulation type dustbin or dustbins, with the exception of eleven which are still served with earth closets or privy-middens.

During the year 817 standard type dustbins were provided in place of defective dustbins.

The quantity of house and trade refuse collected was estimated at 10,886 tons, compared with 10,097 tons in the previous year. The weight of such refuse (in cwts.) represented 13.4 per 1,000 population per day, compared with 12.8 in the previous year. Although this figure compares favourably with the averages of other similar districts it is a notable increase over the two previous years. The principal contributing factor, in my opinion, is the quantity of garden refuse which finds its way into the bins.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Statistical particulars are given in Table VIII.

The inspectors were not able to devote as much time to this branch of work as in the previous year.

RENT (RESTRICTIONS) ACTS.

No applications for certificates were received during the year.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The number of observations of factory chimneys recorded was 24 and the number of smoke nuisances abated was 7.

Atmospheric conditions are slowly improving but it should be recorded that we have a number of industrial processes in the Borough which present difficulties where smoke emissions are involved. The iron and steel and heavy clay industries are the principal offenders against the byelaws, although a number of furnaces at one steel works are showing a steady improvement from year to year. The combination chimney carrying boilers and furnaces often-times gives bad results and our efforts are being concentrated on a number of these plants—various experiments being tried in several instances with a measure of success.

As for the brick kilns, these, with one exception, are exempt from byelaw control as far smoke emission is concerned but I am so satisfied with the position, where modern methods of control are practised, that I look forward hopefully to January 1940 when I trust the smoke abatement byelaws will be adopted and confirmed without the necessity for such an exemption.

Not until it is fully understood that black smoke is so much wasted fuel and that health and amenity conditions depend so much on a pure atmosphere will the civic conscience of those responsible be sufficiently realised.

VERMINOUS HOUSES.

Houses found to be infested with bed bugs in which disinfection measures were carried out were as follows:—

Municipal Houses	...	...	18
Other Houses	...	...	99

Disinfection methods employed are spraying with insecticides (Vermicine or Zaldecide) and fumigation with Cimex blocks, the latter in badly infested cases.

The furniture and bedding of all tenants removing into Municipal houses are examined before removal and in cases of infestation thorough spraying with one of the above insecticides is carried out and in acute cases fumigation with Cimex blocks follows the spraying. Also in cases of infestation dilapidated beds and mattresses are destroyed.

Circulars setting out methods to be followed in preventing re-infestation are issued to tenants and cases are followed up by a member of the staff.

The following statistics relate to disinfection carried out during the year:—

Disinfection for bed-bugs; totals for all houses:—

No. of houses inspected	...	...	...	275
No. of houses found to be verminous	...	...	...	117
No. of houses disinfested	...	...	...	117
No. of re-visits	...	...	...	237
No. of re-disinfections carried out	...	...	...	28

Oldbury Municipal Houses (these figures included in above):—

No. of houses inspected	...	...	...	44
No. of houses found to be verminous	...	...	...	18
No. of houses disinfested	...	...	...	18
No. of re-visits	...	...	...	29
No. of re-disinfections carried out	...	...	...	5

Other disinfection figures were:—

- 31 houses disinfested for cockroaches, of which 10 were Municipal houses.
- 5 houses disinfested for fleas, of which 2 were Municipal houses.
- 5 houses disinfested for ants, of which 2 were Municipal houses.
- 2 houses disinfested for furniture beetles.
- 1 house disinfested for moth weevils.

A.R.P.

The organisation of the Air Raid Precautions—Decontamination Service has been undertaken in the Department and satisfactory progress has been made.

CONCLUSION.

The year has been marked by further progress in a number of important matters, and all members of the Staff have been extremely busy.

I wish to express my thanks to the whole of the Staff for their continued loyalty and co-operation.

To the Town Clerk, Medical Officer of Health and other Chief Officials, I am again indebted for valuable help and co-operation, and my sincere thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued confidence and support.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

E. HARROLD,

Chief Sanitary Inspector
and
Cleansing Superintendent.

Sanitary Department,
Municipal Buildings,
Oldbury.

17th July, 1939.

Statistical Tables are appended to this report.

Table 1.
CLEANSING SERVICE.
House and Trade Refuse.

Table showing costs for the year ended 31st March, 1938.

Item	Particulars.	I. Collection, with Depreciation or Loan Charges included or excluded.		II. Disposal, with Depreciation or Loan Charges included or excluded.		Total, with Depreciation or Loan Charges included or excluded.	
		Included	Excluded	Included	Excluded	Included	Excluded
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
A	REVENUE ACCOUNT Gross Expendi- ture ...	£5531	£5030	£537	£537	£6068	£5567
B	Gross Income ...	200	200	108	108	308	308
C	Net Cost ...	£5331	£4830	£429	£429	£5760	£5259
D	UNIT COSTS Gross Expendi- ture per ton ..	s. d. 10 2	s. d. 9 3	s. d. 1 0	s. d. 1 0	s. d. 11 2	s. d. 10 3
E	Gross Income per ton ...	4	4	3	3	7	7
F	Net Cost per ton	9 10	8 11	9	9	10 7	9 8
G	Net cost per 1,000 population ...	£ s. d. 120 0 0	£ s. d. 109 0 0	£ s. d. 9 0 0	£ s. d. 9 0 0	£ s. d. 129 0 0	£ s. d. 118 0 0
H	Net cost per 1,000 houses or premises from which refuse is collected ...	£ s. d. 420 0 0	£ s. d. 380 0 0	£ s. d. 34 0 0	£ s. d. 34 0 0	£ s. d. 454 0 0	£ s. d. 414 0 0

1.	Total refuse collected (in tons)	...	10,886 (64.8%A.)
2.	Population: Midsummer, 1937	...	44,450
3.	Area (Statute Acres)	...	3,300
4.	Weight (in cwts.) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year)	...	13.4
5.	Number of houses and premises	...	12,680
6.	Method of collection:—		
		No. of vehicles.	Percentage of refuse collected.
	Mechanical vehicles	...	5
			100%
7.	Method of disposal:—		
	Controlled tipping (i.e., on lines of Ministry's precautions for tipping)	...	...
			100%
8.	Average length of haul to point of disposal	...	2.7 miles
9.	No. of employees, other than clerical:—		
		<i>Collection</i>	<i>Disposal</i>
	Foremen	...	1 (for collection and disposal combined)
	Others	...	23
			3

Plant.

The amount included for new plant (as distinct from repairs or renewals) provided out of revenue was £361 os. od.

(22 tons of wet refuse at a cost of £12 10s. 9d.
included in tonnage).

TABLE II.**HOUSING (CONSOLIDATED) REGULATIONS, 1925 & 1932.***Particulars of Systematic House to House Inspections, 1938.*

Inspections.	VENTILATION.			BEDROOMS.		
	Single	Through.	Back to Back.	1.	2.	3 or more.
297	24	170	103	24	228	45

Population.	Overcrowded	More than One Family.	No. requiring Repairs.	No. in Fair Condition.	No. Unfit.
1100, or 3'7 per house.	20	15	53	...	244

TABLE III.

**Summary of defects remedied, improvements effected and
nuisances abated under the Housing and Public
Health Acts during the year 1938.**

Drains opened and cleaned from obstruction	...	...	114
Drains provided with efficient traps	...	...	53
New drains and intercepting chambers provided (excluding new houses)	...	...	68
Drains relaid or repaired	...	...	45
Drains disconnected from sewer or abolished	...	...	8
Soil pipes and ventilation pipes improved or provided	...	...	35
Courts and back yards paved or repaired	...	...	72
Houses cleansed and/or repaired under Public Health Act...	...	...	121
Houses made fit for human habitation under Housing Acts...	...	...	63
Defective spouting repaired or disconnected	...	...	84
Houses provided with damp-proof course	...	...	35
Houses provided with better ventilation, and existing windows made to open	...	...	76
Houses provided with food storage	...	...	38
Existing pantries provided with external ventilation	...	...	23
Houses painted inside	...	...	12
Houses painted outside	...	...	5
Houses painted inside and outside	...	...	43
Firegrates repaired or provided	...	...	134
Houses provided with internal water supply	...	...	53
Houses provided with suitable coal storage	...	...	45
Houses supplied with baths	...	...	1
Wash-houses repaired and/or limewashed	...	...	31
Additional sculleries provided	...	...	24
Wash-houses reconstructed	...	...	1
New sinks provided	...	...	64
New waste pipes provided and others repaired	...	...	69
Foul cellars cleansed and defects in drains remedied	...	...	6

Dirty and verminous houses cleansed and purified	...	6
Houses cleansed and redecorated after infectious disease	...	57
Fried fish shops redecorated	... ..	4
Cases of overcrowding abated on notice	... ..	2
Additional w.c.'s provided	... ..	12
Water closets reconstructed	... ..	34
Water closets abolished	... ..	6
Waste water closets abolished and fresh water closets substituted therefor	... ..	6
Water closets repaired and/or limewashed	... ..	85
Water closets provided with new pedestals	... ..	59
Foul w.c. basins and traps cleansed	... ..	13
Defective w.c. cisterns repaired	... ..	20
New w.c cisterns provided	... ..	44
Urinals cleansed and/or reconstructed	... ..	4
Offensive privies and pail closets abolished and new water closets substituted	... ..	1
Offensive privies and pail closets converted into w.c.'s	...	1
Houses provided with sanitary dustbins	... ..	817
Smoke nuisance abated	... ..	7
Nuisances from animals kept abated	... ..	1
Nuisances from rats abated	... ..	5
Offensive accumulations removed	... ..	4
Courts and back yards cleansed	... ..	1
Water supply: additional taps provided	... ..	20
Drinking water wells abolished (polluted)	... ..	5
Contaminated water supply cut off and waterwork company's supply substituted	... ..	3
Miscellaneous	... ..	54

TABLE IV.

Summary of Inspections and Revisits during the year 1938.

	Inspections	Re-visits
Infectious Disease Prevention	342	208
Houses and Premises	982	2180
Houses in Clearance Areas	37	142
Water Closets and Drains	146	309
House and Trade Refuse Storage	891	1005
Slaughter-houses, Market and Shops	948	7
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	266	40
Ice Cream Shops	8	—
Shops Act	16	89
Keeping of animals and poultry so as to be a nuisance	4	2
Overcrowding	23	245
Factories	40	20
Dirty and Verminous Houses and Premises	29	15
Canal Boats	28	1
Common Lodging Houses and Houses-let-in-Lodgings	34	1
Offensive Trade Premises	70	19
Tents, Vans and Sheds (including temporary buildings)	1	—
Smoke Nuisances (including Inspections of Boilers and Furnaces	29	7
Refuse Disposal Tips	353	—
Derelict Buildings	3	7
Rats and Mice Nuisances	12	27
Miscellaneous	315	127
No. of Interviews	482	

TABLE V.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 and
CANAL BOAT REGULATIONS.

Statistical supplement to the Annual Report for the year 1938.

1. Number of canal boats on register	5
2. Number of canal boats registered during the year	5
3. Number of inspections made for the purpose	5

4.	(a)	Number of other canal boats inspected ...	...	23
	(b)	Number of canal boats conforming to Act and Regulations ...	...	23
	(c)	Number of canal boats infringing Act and Regulations ...	...	—
	(d)	Total number for which cabins registered ...	...	85
	(e)	Total number occupying cabins... ..	...	36

Details of occupation:—

Male adults	...	...	...	...	...	10
Female adults	...	...	...	...	...	15
Children under 14 years of age	...	...	...	...	...	11

TABLE VI.

Summary of notices served during the year 1938.

	Prelim-inary.	Statu-tory.
To provide proper and sufficient drains to houses ...	1	—
To cleanse and/or repair houses after Infectious Disease	23	—
Housing Act, 1936	46	9
Public Health Acts	227	55
To provide dustbins	258	84
Overcrowding	—	2
Houses-let-in-lodgings	1	2
Shops Act, 1934	6	2
O.U.D.C. Act—defective drains, w.c.'s, &c. ...	—	20
O.U.D.C. Act—dilapidated and neglected buildings	3	2
Smoke Nuisances	—	2
To provide wholesome water supply to houses ...	1	—
	566	178

TABLE VII.

Summary of diseased and unwholesome foods condemned and destroyed during the year 1938.

		cwts.	Weight qrs.	lbs.
The carcase and organs of one cow	...	8	—	—
The heads of 48 pigs and neck ends of 2 pigs		5	—	14
One bovine head	... ..	—	1	6
Bovine organs:—				
6 sets of lungs and 9 livers	... ..	1	2	21
Organs of pigs:—				
27 plucks, 1 set of lungs, 1 pair of kidneys, 2 spleens and 6 sets of intestines	...	2	—	15
Organs of sheep:—				
3 plucks and 2 livers	... ..	—	—	12
Total		17	1	12
26 pairs of kippers.				

TABLE VIII.

Summary of improvements effected under the provisions of Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934.

No. of shops inspected	... ..	8
No. of inspections made for the purpose	... ..	93
No. of shops contravening the Shops Act	... ..	7
No. of shops provided with:—		
(a) Suitable and sufficient means of ventilation	... ..	2
(b) suitable and sufficient means of maintaining a reasonable temperature	... ..	5
(c) suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences	... ..	7
(d) suitable and sufficient washing facilities	... ..	7
Certificates of exemption granted for a temporary period in relation to:—		
(a) washing facilities	... ..	—
(b) sanitary conveniences	... ..	2

TABLE IX.
MISCELLANEOUS.

Infectious Diseases, etc.

Visits to houses on account of notifiable disease ...	...	544
Houses disinfected after notifiable disease ...	...	25
Other houses disinfected ...	...	—

Moveable Dwellings, Caravans, etc.

No. observed ...	...	3
No. dealt with, as insanitary ...	...	—

Sanitary Conveniences.

No. of privy middens in use at end of year ...	...	8
No. of earth or pail closets in use at end of year ...	...	17

Scavenging.

No. of houses from which refuse was removed ...	...	13,294
No. of emptyings of privies ...	...	9
No. of emptyings of ashpits ...	...	—
No. of dustbins cleansed weekly ...	...	13,285

Smoke Nuisances.

No. under observation ...	...	24
No. abated ...	...	7

Offensive Trades.

No. under observation ...	...	47
No. improperly conducted ...	...	1
No. newly established, with consent of Council ...	...	—

Water Supply.

No. of houses supplied from waterworks during year ...	...	13,222
No. of samples of water sent for analysis ...	...	10
No. of houses with contaminated or deficient water supplies dealt with ...	...	27

Slaughter-houses.

No. registered (private) ...	...	4
No. licensed (private) ...	...	4
No. of contraventions of byelaws or defects found ...	...	3
No. of inspections ...	...	646
Cases of slaughtering on unlicensed premises reported ...	...	10

Milk.

No. of registered dairy farms in the area	...	...	8
No. of registered retailers in the area	...	...	62
No. of licences under Milk (Special Designations) Order:—			

	Pasteurised.	Accredited.	Tuberculin Tested.
Bottlers	—
Retailers	14
Producers	—
Approximate No. of milking cows in the district	52

Lodging Houses.

No. on register	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
No. of contraventions of bye-laws or defects found	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Houses-let-in-lodgings.

No. on register	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
No. of contraventions of bye-laws or defects found	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

Food and Drugs Act and Milk and Dairies Act.

No. of samples taken for analysis	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
No. of samples certified genuine	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
No. of samples taken for bacteriological or biological tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	19

Other matters.

Verminous houses—cases dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	117
Stagnant water—cases dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Nuisances arising from domestic animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, cases dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

